City of Toronto Fire Department

1989 Annual Report

91-03209/

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All photographs, unless otherwise identified, were taken by the Toronto Fire Department.

Cover photograph: Flames broke through the roofs of two warehouses and lit up the early morning sky at 1385 Bloor Street West on June 25th. Arson was the cause of this spectacular $5 million blaze. Photo: Bill Sandford.

Fire Chief Walter J. Shanahan Reports

Walter J. Shanahan
Fire Chief

Two tragedies overshadowed 1989: the December 23rd Rupert Hotel rooming house fire that killed ten people, and the March 9th death of Acting Captain Gary Kennedy, following injuries he received during a training accident. In total, fires caused 27 deaths, 105 injuries, and $27 million worth of property damage.

Medical calls on rise

Toronto fire fighters responded to 40,279 emergency incidents in 1989, an increase of nearly seven percent over the previous year. Almost half were medical calls (19,147). This category rose by more than 14 percent, fuelling concerns about fire fighters possibly being exposed to communicable diseases, particularly AIDS. The number of structural fires decreased for the second year.

Three-quarters of households unprotected

All of the fire deaths occurred in residences. Working smoke alarms could have prevented many of the fatalities and injuries. Our inspections indicate that approximately half of the homes in the City have smoke alarms. Of the ones that do, about half have alarms that don't work. In other words, only about a quarter of the City's householders have working fire warning systems.

My staff will be redoubling their efforts to raise levels of fire safety awareness and preparedness. They will continue to urge citizens to install and maintain smoke alarms, to plan escape routes, and to remove fire hazards from their homes.

Retirements and promotions

In 1989, 78 people left the Department following distinguished careers: 52 fire fighters, 15 captains, three communication officers, one planning officer, one training officer, four district chiefs, one platoon chief, and one director. Two senior staff members retired: Platoon Chief Lorne Buckingham served the City for 40 years and Communications Division Director George Murray was a 35-year veteran.

TFD personnel honoured

Fire Fighters Lamont Brown and Gerald George were named 1988 Fire Fighters of the Year by the Junior Board of Trade/ Toronto Jaycees for rescuing two young girls from their burning home. Fire Fighters Brown and George also received **Firehouse Magazine's** 1988 Heroism and Community Service Award for this rescue. Fire Fighter Bill Thompson also received a Medal of Valour from **Firehouse Magazine** for rescuing a woman from her burning apartment.

Fire Fighters Sean O'Hearn, Alexander Walker, and Alan Gouk each received Ontario Medals for Fire Fighters Bravery from The Honourable Lincoln Alexander, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

With live hydro wires arcing behind him, Fire Fighter O'Hearn traversed an ice-covered pitched roof to rescue a man from the second floor of a burning house. Fire Fighter Walker made his way through intense heat and heavy smoke to the third floor of a burning house and rescued a teenage girl. After battling flames, Fire Fighter Gouk located and rescued two people from their burning home.

The Department also recognized its own, presenting 16 Commendation Awards, 12 Letters of Merit, and three Letters of Recognition for acts of bravery.

Twenty-six Toronto fire fighters were awarded the Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal at a special Investiture Ceremony. National in scope, this award recognizes long and outstanding service.

On the public's behalf, the Provincial Government awards The Fire Services Long Service Medal to Ontario fire fighters with 25 years' service. In 1989, 36 Toronto fire fighters received this recognition.

Recruits reflect community

In 1989, the Department continued to place emphasis on attracting qualified women and visible minority recruits. As a result of presentations to target audiences, more than 14,000 people, reflecting the diversity of the City's multicultural population, were introduced to career opportunities with the Department.

A fire fighter performs CPR on a fire victim being rushed to ambulance. Photo: Canada Wide

Five Year Comparative Summary

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Total Incidents	32,524	33,429	36,002	37,676	40,279
Total Structure Fires	1,820	1,706	2,263	2,174	2,069
Total Services *	18,065	18,454	19,141	20,812	23,329
Fire Fatalities	15	12	14	24	27
Total Fire Loss ($ '000s)	11,112	11,331	16,813	18,742	26,913

* includes: medical, rescues, accidents, chemical spills and leaks and public hazards

Pressurized water system shut down

Introduced shortly after the Great Toronto Fire of 1904, the City's high-pressure water system was finally phased out in 1989. The high-pressure mains had been connected to the rest of the water-main system in 1978. Today's high-rise buildings have internal systems that can provide water at pressures required for fighting fires, making the high-pressure system obsolete. The funds previously used to maintain this system will now provide for Storz 100mm quick connect ports on all City hydrants.

Reflections and thank yous

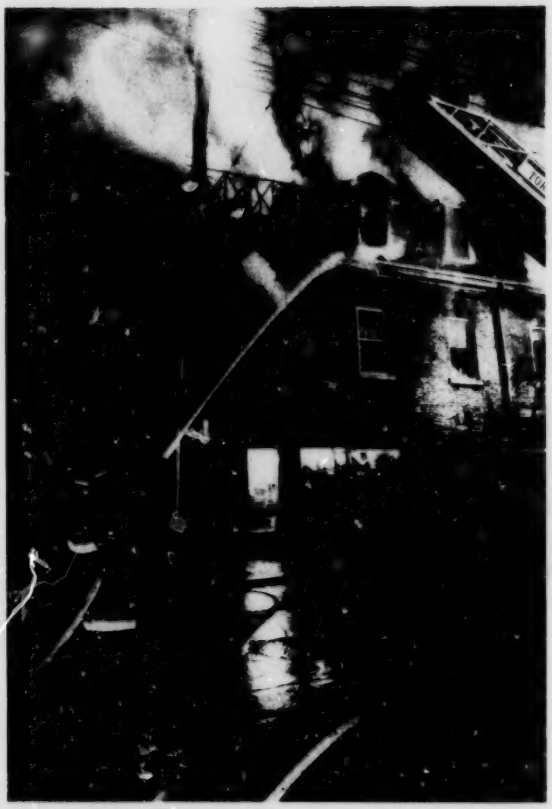
Reflecting on the Department's performance during 1989, I believe it is fair to say that the men and women of the TFD have served with distinction, with valour, and with compassion. They have enhanced the Department's proud tradition of providing the citizens of Toronto with the highest possible level of protection against fire and other dangers.

This tradition has deservedly earned the Toronto Fire Department its reputation as a modern and efficient urban emergency-response service.

I thank Mayor Eggleton, the Members of City Council, and the individuals in various City Departments and organizations who have supported and assisted the Toronto Fire Department, helping us to achieve our objectives.

With the continued support and assistance of the dedicated and professional employees of the TFD, I am confident the Department can overcome any challenges the nineties may bring.

As always, we will strive to anticipate and meet the safety needs of a growing and increasingly complex community.



Despite the valiant efforts of fire fighters, two people lost their lives in this deadly rooming house fire. Photo: Canada Wide

Toronto Fire Department Staff

Walter J. Shanahan
Fire Chief

Joseph F. Underwood
Deputy Chief

Ronald G. McCarthy
Assistant Deputy Chief

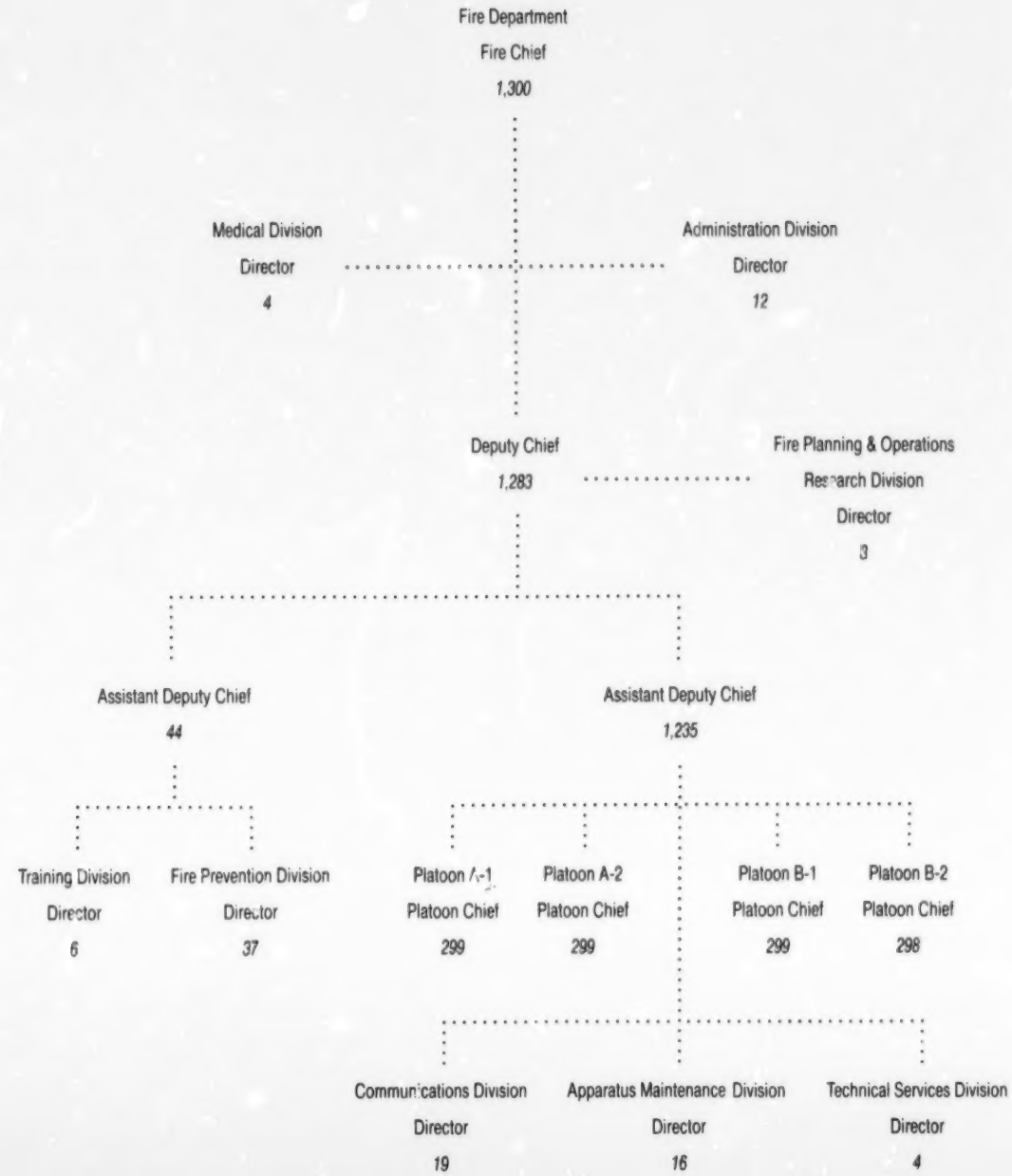
Ronald W. McDonald
Assistant Deputy Chief

Senior Officers	
Fire Chief	1
Deputy Fire Chief	1
Assistant Deputy Fire Chiefs	2
Fire Fighting Division	
Platoon Chiefs	4
District Chiefs	36
Captains	204
Fire Fighters	942
Marine Captains	5
Marine Engineers	5
Fire Prevention Division	
Director	1
Chief Fire Prevention Officer	1
Fire Prevention Officers	8
Fire Inspectors	23
Chief Information Officer	1
Information Officers	3
Training Division	
Director	1
Training Officers	5
Communications Division	
Director	1
Communications Officers	5
Data Resource Dispatchers	4
Fire Fighter Dispatchers	9
Apparatus Maintenance Division	
Director	1
Supervisors	3
Fire Fighter Mechanics	12
Technical Services	
Director	1
Technicians	2
Planning and Research Division	
Director	1
Planning Officer	1
Research Officer	1

Medical Division	
Director (Doctor)	1
Medical Assistant	1
Safety Officer	1
Fitness Co-ordinator	1
Administration Division	
Director	1
Secretary to Chief	1
Payroll Section	3
Accounting Section	3
Secretarial	4
City of Toronto Population	612,258
City of Toronto Area	100 sq. km.
Cost of Operating the Department excluding water	$71,561,741
Water Charges	$ 1,784,747

Fire fighters work a 42-hour week, 10-hour days, and 14-hour nights, two shifts with a four platoon system.

TFD Organizational Chart and Establisment



Incident Breakdown

Fires:	
Buildings	2,069
Vehicles	381
Rubbish and Grass	1,008
Total Fires	3,458
Total Fire Loss	$26,912,902
Services:	
Medical	19,147
Public Service*	3,364
Hazardous Materials	818
Total Services	23,329
Other Alarms:	
False	3,403
Accidental**	10,089
Total Incidents All Types	40,279
Casualties:	
Fire Fatalities (citizens)	27
Citizens Injured	105
Fire fighters, On-Duty Deaths	1
Fire fighters, On-Duty Injuries	206

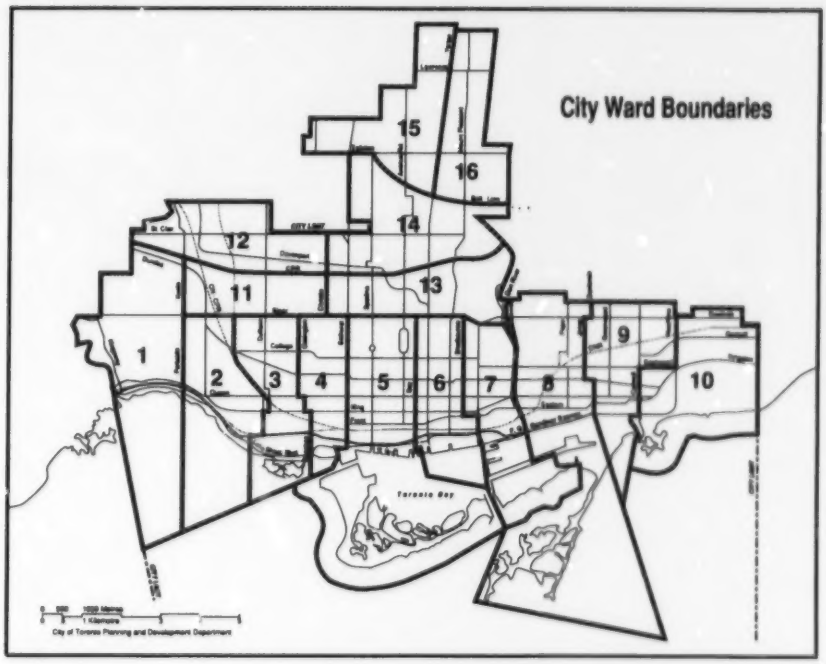
*Public service alarms include: rescues, accidents and public hazards.

**Accidental alarms include: sprinkler systems, alarm systems, smoke and steam mistaken as fires, and smoke alarms activated.

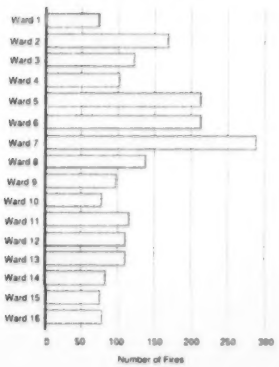
The specially designed modules on High Rise Unit No. 1 make transporting equipment at high rise incidents much easier. One fire fighter can now move what previously took three fire fighters to carry.

Incident Type by Location

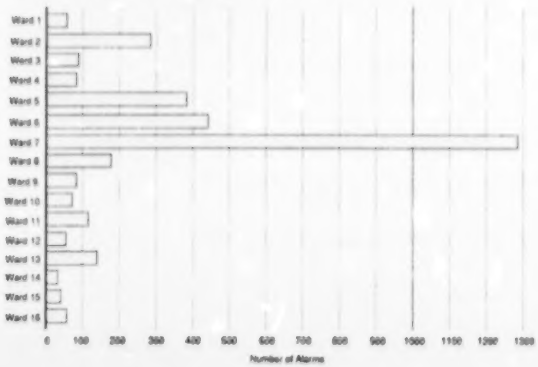
City Ward Boundaries



Building Fires by City Ward



Malicious False Alarms by City Ward

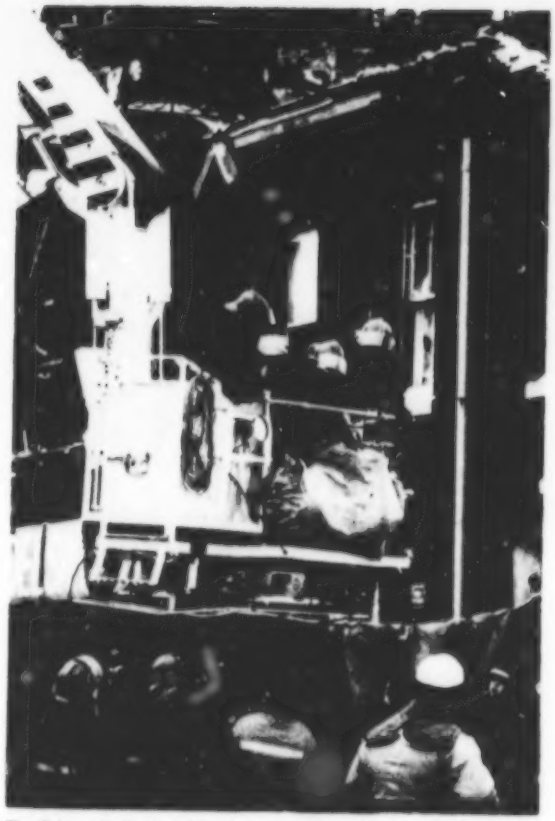


Incident Type by Location

	Fires			Other Incidents					
Ward	Buildings	Vehicles	Rubbish & Grass	Accidental	Medical	Public Service	Hazardous Materials	False	Totals
1	73	16	57	261	702	129	36	57	1,331
2	167	25	61	514	1,533	284	52	285	2,921
3	122	33	62	331	928	149	73	89	1,787
4	102	21	40	303	787	139	47	84	1,523
5	213	52	107	2,253	2,445	454	95	383	6,002
6	213	32	84	1,809	2,638	346	31	441	5,654
7	286	30	107	970	1,950	336	56	1,285	5,022
8	138	29	76	514	1,295	195	63	179	2,489
9	99	23	65	238	858	129	50	84	1,546
10	78	23	46	240	884	163	46	71	1,551
11	116	15	59	293	943	145	34	112	1,717
12	111	25	99	258	835	147	36	55	1,566
13	111	22	50	769	1,291	225	39	140	2,647
14	84	16	28	591	745	183	30	34	1,711
15	75	11	35	395	656	157	31	42	1,402
16	78	8	30	335	637	166	38	58	1,350
City Total	2,068	381	1,008	10,074	19,127	3,347	817	3,399	40,219
Outside City	1	0	2	15	20	17	1	4	60
Grand Total	2,069	381	1,008	10,089	19,147	3,364	818	3,403	40,279

Incident Type by Location

Ward	This Year Fire Loss $	Last Year Fire Loss $	% Change
1	1,286,246	287,578	347.3
2	6,248,600	819,545	662.4
3	2,177,996	4,778,984	- 54.4
4	1,238,678	286,729	332.0
5	3,773,890	2,883,951	30.9
6	593,765	1,779,940	- 66.6
7	4,833,126	1,142,228	323.1
8	1,752,180	1,914,559	- 8.5
9	811,594	1,244,241	- 34.8
10	404,622	592,492	- 31.7
11	892,085	303,152	194.3
12	528,365	562,741	- 6.1
13	1,125,864	1,190,077	- 5.4
14	563,134	296,321	90.0
15	431,690	357,935	20.6
16	250,967	300,138	- 16.4
City Total	26,912,802	18,740,611	43.6
Outside City	100	1,725	- 94.2
Grand Total	26,912,902	18,742,336	43.6



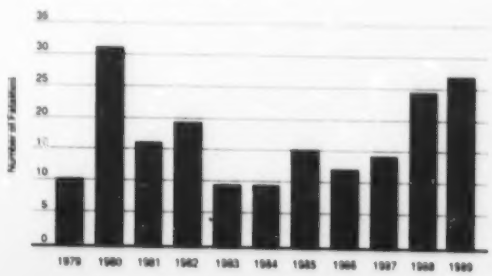
Fire fighters begin the grim task of removing victims from the tragic Rupert Hotel rooming house fire. Photo: Canada Wide

Fire Fatalities

Date	Time (hrs)	Location	Occupancy	Cause	Victim	Age
January 7	1946	69 Petman Ave.	residential, S	accidental	male	62
January 30	0443	455 Euclid Ave.	residential, S	combustible too close	female	101
February 4	0309	8 Walmer Rd.	residential, M	careless smoking	male	22
February 5	0348	69 Spadina Rd.	residential, RH	careless smoking	male	65
February 5	0348	69 Spadina Rd.	residential, RH	careless smoking	male	61
February 15	0406	363 Sorauren Ave.	residential, S	accidental	male	18
March 8	0235	84 Empire Ave.	residential, RH	combustible too close	male	39
March 8	0235	84 Empire Ave.	residential, RH	combustible too close	male	67
March 9	0729	173 Carlaw Ave.	residential, S	undetermined	male	62
March 9	0729	173 Carlaw Ave.	residential, S	undetermined	male	3
March 9	0729	173 Carlaw Ave.	residential, S	undetermined	female	66
September 4	0130	1205 Queen St. W.	residential, RC	arson	male	20
September 28	0334	14 Cowan Ave.	residential, M	careless smoking	male	16
November 21	1917	275 Shuter St.	residential, S	candle	male	22
November 25	0451	303 Chaplin Cresc.	residential, S	careless smoking	male	82
December 16	0940	77 Woodfield Rd.	residential, S	careless smoking	female	79
December 23	1717	344 Queen St. E.	residential, RH	arson	male	59
December 23	1717	344 Queen St. E.	residential, RH	arson	male	47
December 23	1717	344 Queen St. E.	residential, RH	arson	male	56
December 23	1717	344 Queen St. E.	residential, RH	arson	male	45
December 23	1717	344 Queen St. E.	residential, RH	arson	male	51
December 23	1717	344 Queen St. E.	residential, RH	arson	male	56
December 23	1717	344 Queen St. E.	residential, RH	arson	male	62
December 23	1717	344 Queen St. E.	residential, RH	arson	female	31
December 23	1717	344 Queen St. E.	residential, RH	arson	male	51
December 23	1717	344 Queen St. E.	residential, RH	arson	male	59
December 29	2127	365 Balliol St.	residential, A	careless smoking	female	39

RC - residential/commercial
S - single family dwelling
M - multi-unit apartment
A - apartment building
RH - rooming house

Fire Fatalities 1979 - 1989



LOCATION OF FIRE STATIONS AND DISTRICTS

Station/Address	Apparatus	Specifications	Engine
No. 1 Station	Pumper No. 1	1986 Thibault-Mack (diesel) 5000 Litre	6 285 HP
260 Adelaide Street West	Aerial Tower No. 1	1987 Bronto-Mack (diesel) 27 Metre	6 285 HP
built 1971	High Rise No. 1	1987 Dependable-Mack (diesel)	6 285 HP
	Fire Command 40	1987 Dodge Van (Platoon Chief)	
No. 2 Station	Pumper No. 2	1987 Superior-Mack (diesel) 5000 Litre	6 285 HP
33 Claremont Street	Pumper No. 9	1987 Superior-Mack (diesel) 5000 Litre	6 285 HP
built 1968	Aerial Tower No. 2	1987 Bronto-Mack (diesel) 27 Metre	6 285 HP
	Rescue No. 2	1985 Mack (diesel)	6 285 HP
	Car 44	1986 Dodge Van (District Chief 4)	
No. 3 Station	Pumper No. 3	1987 Superior-Mack (diesel) 5000 Litre	6 285 HP
12 Grosvenor Street			
built 1926			
No. 5 Station	Pumper No. 5	1988 Superior-Mack (diesel) 5000 Litre	6 285 HP
207 Front Street East	Aerial Tower No. 5	1987 Hi-Ranger-Mack (diesel) 25 Metre	6 285 HP
built 1970	Rescue No. 1	1983 International (diesel)	V6 265 HP
	Car 41	1986 Dodge Van (District Chief 1)	

No. 7 Station	Pumper No. 4	1988 Superior-Mack (diesel) 5000 Litre	6	285 HP
475 Dundas Street East	Pumper No. 7	1987 Hub-Mack (diesel) 5000 Litre	6	285 HP
built 1954: rebuilt 1989	Aerial No. 7	1987 Thibault-Mack (diesel) 30 Metre	6	285 HP
No. 8 Station	Pumper No. 8	1979 Pierreville-Scott (diesel) 5000 Litre	V6	265 HP
132 Bellevue Avenue	Aerial No. 8	1982 Pierreville-International (diesel) 30 Metre	V6	265 HP
built 1878: rebuilt 1973				
No. 10 Station	Pumper No. 10	1987 Thibault-Mack (diesel) 5000 Litre	6	285 HP
34 Yorkville Avenue	Aerial No. 10	1987 Thibault-Mack (diesel) 30 Metre	6	285 HP
built 1878: rebuilt 1973	Car 43	1986 Dodge Van (District Chief 3)		
No. 11 Station	Pumper No. 11	1978 Pierreville-Scott (diesel) 5000 Litre Foam	6	265 HP
441 Bloor Street East				
built 1967				
No. 12 Station	Pumper No. 12	1978 Pierreville-Scott (diesel) 5000 Litre	V6	265 HP
840 Gerrard Street East	Aerial No. 12	1987 Thibault-Mack (diesel) 30 Metre	6	285 HP
built 1932				
No. 14 Station	Pumper No. 14	1983 Pierreville-International (diesel) 5000 Litre	V6	265 HP
1285 Dufferin Street	Aerial No. 14	1982 Pierreville-International (diesel) 30 Metre	V6	265 HP
built 1963	Car 45	1987 Dodge Van (District Chief 5)		
No. 15 Station	Pumper No. 13	1987 Hub-Mack (diesel) 5000 Litre	6	285 HP
140 Lansdowne Avenue	Pumper No. 15	1978 Pierreville-Scott (diesel) 5000 Litre Foam	6	265 HP
built 1972	Aerial No. 15	1982 Pierreville-International (diesel) 30 Metre	V6	265 HP
	Hazard No. 1	1985 Mack (diesel) Hazardous Material Response Vehicle	6	285 HP
No. 16 Station	Pumper No. 16	1972 Pierreville-Ford (diesel) 5000 Litre	V6	265 HP
83 DeForest Road				
built 1930				
No. 17 Station	Pumper No. 17	1983 Pierreville-International (diesel) 5000 Litre	V6	265 HP
1904 Queen Street East	Aerial No. 17	1962 Mack (gas) 30 Metre	6	267 HP
built 1905				
No. 20 Station	Pumper No. 20	1987 Superior-Mack (diesel) 5000 Litre	6	285 HP
358 Keele Street	Aerial No. 20	1980 Pierreville-Scott (diesel) 30 Metre	V6	265 HP
built 1954	Car 47	1987 Dodge Van (District Chief 7)		
No. 22 Station	Pumper No. 22	1981 Pierreville-International (diesel) 4000 Litre	V6	265 HP
87 Main Street	Aerial No. 22	1982 Pierreville-International (diesel) 30 Metre	V6	265 HP
built 1910				
No. 23 Station	Pumper No. 23	1982 Pierreville-International (diesel) 5000 Litre	V6	265 HP
240 Howland Avenue				
built 1910				

No. 24 Station 20 Balmoral Avenue built 1911	Pumper No. 24 Aerial No. 24	1971 King Seagrave-Ford (diesel) 5000 Litre 1982 Pierreville-International(diesel) 30 Metre	V6 265 HP V6 265 HP
No. 25 Station 65 Hendrick Avenue built 1916	Pumper No. 25 Aerial No. 25	1980 Pierreville-Scott (diesel) 5000 Litre 1980 Pierreville-Scott (diesel) 30 Metre	V6 265 HP V6 265 HP
No. 26 Station 153 Chatham Avenue built 1963	Pumper No. 26 Aerial No. 26 Car 42	1978 Pierreville-Scott (diesel) 5000 Litre 1968 LaFrance-Ford (gas) 30 Metre 1987 Dodge Van (District Chief 2)	V6 265 HP V8 266 HP
No. 27 Station 106 Ascot Avenue built 1915	Pumper No. 27	1981 Pierreville-International (diesel) 4000 Litre	V6 265 HP
No. 28 Station 16 Montgomery Avenue built 1932	Pumper No. 28 Aerial No. 28 Car 46	1971 King Seagrave Ford (diesel) 5000 Litre 1974 Thibault-Ford (diesel) 30 Metre 1987 Dodge Van (District Chief 6)	V6 265 HP V6 265 HP
No. 29 Station 641 Eglinton Avenue West built 1932	Pumper No. 29 Aerial No. 29	1973 Pierreville-Ford (diesel) 5000 Litre 1968 LaFrance-Ford (gas) 30 Metre	V6 265 HP V8 266 HP
No. 30 Station 30 Knox Avenue built 1980: an addition to Fire Academy	Pumper No. 30 Air Supply No. 1	1977 Pierreville-Ford (diesel) 5000 Litre Foam 1983 International (gas)	V6 265 HP V8 245 HP
No. 31 Station 462 Runnymede Road built 1929	Pumper No. 31 Aerial No. 31	1979 Pierreville-Scott (diesel) 5000 Litre 1968 LaFrance-Ford (gas) 30 Metre	V6 265 HP V8 266 HP
No. 32 Station Manitoba Drive C.N.E. built 1922		Temporary station – only used during the Canadian National Exhibition	
No. 33 Station 101 Cibola Avenue Wards Island built 1937: relocated 1960	Pumper No. 33 Pumper	1982 Pierreville-GMC (gas) 4x4 1600 Litre 1970 LaFrance-Ford (diesel) 5000 Litre	V8 165 HP V6 265 HP
No. 34 Station 3135 Yonge Street built 1931	Pumper No. 34	1982 Pierreville-International (diesel) 5000 Litre	V8 265 HP
No. 35 Station 11 Queen's Quay West built 1972	Fireboat No. 1	1964 32000 Litre Foam (diesel) 16.5 Metre Aerial	

Number of Responses by Type

Number of Responses

Response Type	This Year	Last Year	Difference	% Change
Structure Fires	2,062	2,141	- 79	- 3.7
Vehicle Accident or Collison with Fire	10	12	- 2	- 16.7
Vehicle Fire	371	409	- 38	- 9.3
Rubbish Fire (No Dollar Loss)	955	1,008	- 53	- 5.3
Grass Fire (No Dollar Loss)	53	104	- 51	- 49.0
Chimney or Flue Fire (No Dollar Loss)	13	16	- 3	- 18.8
Furnace or Stove Malfunction	63	56	7	12.5
Explosion (No Fire)	4	4	0	0.0
Assistance to other Fire Departments	39	42	- 3	- 7.1
Washdown (Hazardous Products)	585	685	-100	- 14.6
Natural Gas Leak	75	64	11	17.2
Propane Gas Leak	67	75	- 8	- 10.7
Radio-Active Material Problem	1	1	0	0.0
Other Dangerous Goods - Spill or Leak	81	82	- 1	- 1.2
Ruptured Water/Steam Pipe	546	351	195	55.6
Power Lines Down/Arcing	418	336	82	24.4
Bomb/Explosive Removal/Standby	5	5	0	0.0
Other (Public Hazard)	165	168	- 3	- 1.8
Vehicle Extrication	57	41	16	39.0
Elevator Rescues	583	643	- 60	- 9.3
Other (Rescues)	73	69	4	5.8
Accident - Vehicle (No Fire)	477	436	41	9.4
Accident - Home or Residential Property	3	6	- 3	- 50.0
Accident - Commercial, Industrial Property	20	19	1	5.3

(Chart continued on page 16)

Number of Responses by Type

Number of Responses

Response Type	This Year	Last Year	Difference	% Change
Resuscitator - Asphyxia or Resp. Condition	910	714	196	27.5
Resuscitator - Convulsions	503	379	124	32.7
Resuscitator - Electric Shock	9	9	0	0.0
Resuscitator - Traumatic Shock	23	17	6	35.3
Resuscitator - Drowning	6	5	1	20.0
Resuscitator - Heart Attack	1,610	1,090	520	47.7
Resuscitator - Drug Related Condition	597	467	130	27.8
Resuscitator - Not Required on Arrival	6,801	5,556	1,245	22.4
Resuscitator - Other	996	772	224	29.0
Malicious False Alarm - Residential Occupancy	2,066	2,119	- 53	- 2.5
Malicious False Alarm - Educational Occupancy	43	69	- 26	- 37.7
Malicious False Alarm - Other	1,295	1,341	- 46	- 3.4
Alarm No Fire - Sprinkler Pressure Surge	408	437	- 29	- 6.6
Alarm No Fire - Detector Activated	2,359	2,031	328	16.1
Alarm No Fire - Equipment Malfunction	2,960	2,755	205	7.4
Alarm No Fire - Smoke/Steam Mistaken	1,788	1,952	-164	- 8.4
Alarm No Fire - Unknown Odour Investigated	1,046	1,089	- 43	- 3.9
Alarm No Fire - Accidental	1,242	1,188	54	4.5
Alarm No Fire - Other	288	222	66	29.7
Assistance to Police or Other Agencies	3,156	3,446	-290	- 8.4
First Aid	4,538	4,275	263	6.2
Other Public Service	906	970	- 64	- 6.5
Authorized FD Activated Activities	3	0	3	100.0
Total Responses	40,279	37,676	2,603	6.9

Response Type Listing (Dollar Loss)

	Dollar Loss			
Response Type	**This Year**	**Last Year**	**Difference**	**% Change**
Fire	23,795,722	17,049,348	6,746,374	39.6
No-Alarm Fire	951	953	- 2	- 0.2
Exposure Fire	2,388,830	755,665	1,633,165	216.1
Vehicle Accident or Collision with Fire	21,200	40,010	-18,810	- 47.0
Vehicle Fire - Exposure	36,501	77,150	-40,649	- 52.7
Vehicle Fire	669,698	819,210	-149,512	- 18.3
Total Fires	26,912,902	18,742,336	8,170,566	43.6

Aerial ladders set up as water towers bring this fire under control.

Source of Ignition by Property Classification

Property Classification	Cooking Equipment	Electrical Distribution Items	Heating Equipment	Appliances/ Home Articles	Lighting Equipment	Other Electrical/Mechanical	Smokers' Articles	Open Flame	Miscellaneous*	Exposure	Total Number of Incidents	Dollar Loss
Residential:												
Detached, Semi-detached Dwelling	194	53	40	14	17	7	74	55	32	59	545	4,711,917
Attached Dwelling	22	9	6	2	3	•	8	7	4	38	99	1,443,642
Rooming, Boarding, Lodging House, Group Home	15	4	3	1	•	•	24	11	6	•	64	2,071,308
Multi-Unit Dwelling	250	23	11	8	15	4	216	72	49	2	650	2,059,301
Dual Purpose Dwelling - Residential with Business	8	13	3	1	2	2	9	4	4	20	66	1,599,426
Mobile Home	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	1	50
Residential - Other	3	3	2	•	1	1	13	16	14	32	85	358,205
Residential - Unclassified	3	•	•	•	•	1	7	3	2	1	19	9,987
Residential - Total	495	105	67	27	35	15	351	168	111	152	1,529	12,253,836
Assembly:												
Theatre, Auditorium	•	1	2	•	•	•	1	1	•	•	5	2,505
Museum, Art Gallery, Library	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	2	2	225,001
Recreation/Sports Facility	2	2	1	•	1	•	4	3	2	2	17	1,521,460
Education Facility	2	3	1	•	1	•	11	11	4	•	33	186,477
Religious Facility	1	2	1	•	1	•	2	2	1	•	10	92,222
Assembly - Unclassified	•	•	•	•	•	•	1	1	•	•	2	21
Assembly - Total	5	8	5	•	3	•	19	18	7	4	69	2,027,686

Source of Ignition by Property Classification

Property Classification	Cooking Equipment	Electrical Distribution Items	Heating Equipment	Appliances/ Home Articles	Lighting Equipment	Other Electrical/Mechanical	Smokers' Articles	Open Flame	Miscellaneous*	Exposure	Total Number of Incidents	Dollar Loss
Institutions:												
Penal Facility	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	1	75
Medical Facility	1	5	2	2	1	1	8	4	4	•	28	126,677
Institutional - Unclassified	•	•	•	•	•	2	•	•	2	•	4	975
Institutions - Total	1	5	2	2	1	3	8	5	6	•	33	127,727
Commercial I:												
Food, Beverage Sales	10	7	1	2	•	•	3	1	4	4	32	22,893
Furniture, Appliance Sales/Service	•	1	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	2	100,100
Hardware, Building Supplies	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	2	1	•	4	3,255
Textiles, Wearing Apparel Sales	•	4	•	•	2	•	4	5	2	3	20	111,776
Vehicle Sales/Service	•	5	2	•	1	2	2	2	2	•	16	164,425
Department, Catalogue, Variety Store	•	2	1	•	•	•	6	2	•	1	12	26,750
Specialty Sales/Service	1	6	1	5	2	1	6	1	4	7	34	1,476,554
Utilities	•	8	•	•	•	1	1	1	•	1	12	396,775
Farm, Mine	•	•	•	•	•	•	1	1	•	•	2	450
Commercial I - Total	11	34	6	7	5	4	23	15	13	16	134	2,302,978

Source of Ignition by Property Classification

Property Classification	Cooking Equipment	Electrical Distribution Items	Heating Equipment	Appliances/ Home Articles	Lighting Equipment	Other Electrical/Mechanical	Smokers' Articles	Open Flame	Miscellaneous*	Exposure	Total Number of Incidents	Dollar Loss
Commercial II:												
Hotel, Motel, Lodge, Inn	4	4	1	3	•	1	18	6	4	2	43	31,115
Food, Beverage Establishment	43	15	8	3	2	1	11	1	5	3	92	827,056
Business or Personal Services	1	1	•	•	•	2	5	2	2	4	17	719,965
Office Facility	1	18	4	•	3	6	22	17	5	3	79	1,253,312
Transportation Facility	1	5	3	•	•	3	28	3	6	•	49	6,171
Commercial - Unclassified	3	6	4	•	1	2	6	9	6	2	39	149,217
Comm[illegible] II - Total	53	49	20	6	6	15	90	38	28	14	319	2,986,836
Manufacturing/Processing:												
Chemical, Petroleum, Paint, Plastic Products	•	1	•	•	•	2	1	•	1	•	5	58,250
Agricultural Products - Food, Beverages, Tobacco, etc.	1	•	1	•	•	1	1	•	•	•	4	400
Textiles, Clothing, Leather Goods	•	2	1	•	•	6	2	2	2	•	15	547,725
Wood, Furniture, Paper Products, Printing	•	•	1	•	•	2	3	2	2	•	10	118,985
Other Metal, Electrical or Miscellaneous Products	•	3	•	•	•	3	•	2	3	3	14	36,775
Manufacturing/Processing - Unclassified	1	•	1	•	•	•	1	2	5	•	10	364,402
Manufacturing/Processing - Total	2	6	4	•	•	14	8	8	13	3	58	1,126,537

Source of Ignition by Property Classification

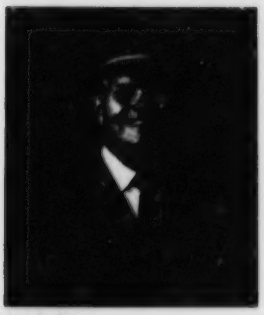
Property Classification	Cooking Equipment	Electrical Distribution Items	Heating Equipment	Appliances/ Home Articles	Lighting Equipment	Other Electrical/Mechanical	Smokers' Articles	Open Flame	Miscellaneous*	Exposure	Total Number of Incidents	Dollar Loss
Warehouse and Storage:												
Warehouse	1	1	1	•	1	•	4	4	4	3	19	5,069,114
Cryogenic or Pressure Storage Facility	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	1	200
Cold Storage	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	1	2,000
Open (Outdoor) Storage	2	1	•	•	•	•	2	•	1	•	6	10,409
Other Storage Facilities	•	•	•	•	•	•	5	1	2	3	11	254,115
Warehouse and Storage - Total	3	2	1	•	1	1	11	6	7	6	38	5,335,838
Miscellaneous Structure/Property:												
Miscellaneous Structure/Property	1	4	1	•	•	1	37	18	16	9	87	22,545
Miscellaneous Property	•	1	•	•	•	•	2	2	1	•	6	1,520
Miscellaneous Structure/Property - Total	1	5	1	•	•	1	39	20	17	9	93	24,065
Vehicles:												
Road Vehicles	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	358	45	403	719,508
Rail Vehicles	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	14	•	14	6,415
Water Craft	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	5	•	5	1,051
Miscellaneous or Specialty Vehicles	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	4	•	4	425
Vehicles - Total	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	381	45	426	727,399
Grand Total	571	214	106	42	54	53	549	278	583	249	2,699	26,912,902

*includes: chemical reactions, spontaneous combustion lightning, sparks from static electricity, hot embers/ashes/sparks, explosives, fireworks, open fires, campfires, rubbish fires, unknown and unclassified

Fire Fighting Division

The officers and fire fighters of the Fire Fighting Division are the Department's frontline personnel. They fight fires, perform rescues, administer first aid, protect property, and save lives. They endure the risks and accept the hazards of this dangerous profession.

John Kirk
Platoon Chief, A-1 Shift



Jack C. Sharp
Platoon Chief, A-2 Shift

During 1989, Toronto fire fighters responded to 40,279 emergency calls, a 6.9 percent increase over 1988's 37,676 calls. Of this total, 3,403 calls were malicious false alarms. Besides being annoying, these calls pose a considerable threat to the community and to the responding fire crews. They not only tie up first response crews, but in the event of a genuine emergency, apparatus from more distant stations would be called to respond; valuable time lost could cost a life.

H.A. Ross Perrier
Platoon Chief, B-1 Shift

Alexander M. Ritchie
Platoon Chief, B-2 Shift

Toronto fire fighters extinguished 3,458 fires in 1989. These included 2,069 structure fires, 381 vehicle fires and 1,008 rubbish and grass fires. In addition to their fire fighting and rescue duties, fire fighters responded to 19,147 medical emergencies and 4,182 public service calls. Total estimated loss from incidents was $26,912,902, compared with $18,742,336 in 1988.

There were 27 fatalities as a result of fires during 1989, and 105 civilians were injured. The year's deadliest fire at the Rupert Hotel rooming house claimed 10 lives on December 23rd.

Tragically, one Toronto fire fighter died in the line of duty in 1989. Acting Captain Gary Kennedy died of injuries he received during a training exercise at the Adelaide Street Fire Station. (See article and tribute on page 31.) Three other fire fighters were also seriously injured in the same accident when they were thrown from the bucket of a new Bronto aerial tower. In total, 206 fire fighters were treated for job-related injuries.

Canada's busiest fire apparatus

Pumper No. 3 out of a small station at 12 Grosvenor Street regained its title as Canada's busiest fire apparatus from Dundas Street Station's Pumper No. 7 in 1989. The crews of this single apparatus station responded to 4,270 emergency calls in Toronto's busy downtown core. Aerial No. 7, stationed at 475 Dundas Street East, was the nation's busiest aerial; it responded to 3,002 calls.

Fire prevention efforts

Fighting fires is basically a reactive response to an emergency situation. The **prevention** of fire is a pro-active approach to the problem of fire that, to be truly effective, requires a knowledgeable public.

Toronto fire fighters are an essential part of the Department's many activities aimed at reducing the likelihood of fire, and educating the public about its dangers.

Three of the Department's fire prevention measures involve on-site inspections by fire fighters: the Home Inspection Program, the Occupancy Safety Check Program, and the Pre-Fire Planning and Inspection Program. These are described in detail in the Fire Prevention Division report. There is also an explanation of how fire fighters educate children and adults about home fire risks and how they support media and public relations efforts.

Due to the tireless effort of fire fighters, the Department is highly respected in the community. Fire fighters are proud to continue the Department's long-standing tradition of community service.

Supporting worthy causes

In 1989, Toronto fire fighters again provided substantial support for worthy causes during their off-duty hours.

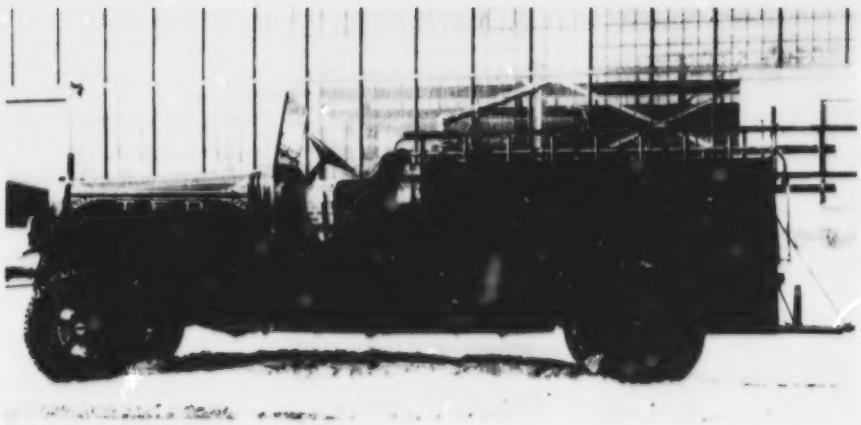
Fire fighters went right to the top in their efforts to raise funds during a CN Tower climb for charity. The climb was organized by Captain Ken Magill with the assistance of his crew on Pumper No. 23, Fitness Analyst Terry Buckley and Chief Information Officer Bev Gilbert. Accompanied by their families and friends, fire fighters conquered 1,760 steps to reach the top of the Tower and raise more than $60,000. The money was donated to the Hospital for Sick Children in memory of Acting Captain Gary Kennedy in whose honour a room will be named in the hospital's Burn Unit.

Each year, members of Local 113 of the International Association of Fire Fighters raise funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association's research program through their "Boot Drive." Off-duty fire fighters visit shopping malls and ask shoppers to contribute money to help "Jerry's Kids." Donations are collected in the "hip-waders" that fire fighters wear as part of their protective clothing.

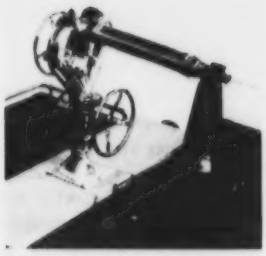
Fire fighters traded their turnout gear for aprons and faced the heat in the kitchen to flip burgers and serve Big Macs in aid of McDonald's Children's Charities of Canada.

Toronto fire stations served as drop-off stations for various charity drives to collect food and clothing. The Daily Bread Food Bank and the Hurricane Hugo Relief Fund were two of the many community programs supported in 1989.

Mayor Art Eggleton joins Fire Department personnel atop the CN Tower. The climb raised more than $60,000 for charity.



One of the original high-pressure monitor trucks.



Close up view of the high-pressure monitor.

The end of an era

Since the bucket brigades of the 1800s, the Toronto Fire Department has been working to ensure that there is an adequate and accessible supply of water for fighting fires.

The consequences of water supply deficiency were clearly demonstrated by the large scale devastation of the Great Toronto Fire in 1904 when more than 100 buildings were destroyed, putting 5,000 people out of work.

In response to the 1904 disaster, construction began in 1906 on a high-pressure water system. The system, which went into service in late 1908, covered an area bounded by Bathurst, Queen, and Jarvis streets, and Lake Ontario.

Extensions to the system in 1926 and 1932 provided a total of 28 kilometres of 200mm, 300mm and 500mm mains with 290 three-way hydrants. Two large diesel-powered pumps in the John Street pumping station drew water directly from the lake to feed it into the specialized mains. A low constant pressure was maintained in the system until it was required for an incident, at which time the pressure was increased to 1050 kilopascals (kPa); it could be boosted to 2100 kPa, if required. This plural system remained largely unchanged for almost 70 years.

During this period, Toronto's residential water supply was greatly upgraded, especially downtown. High-rise buildings were built with internal systems that deliver water at pressures suitable for fighting fires. In 1976, one of the two high-pressure monitor trucks that had acted as manifolds off the high-pressure system was taken out of service, due to lack of demand. The existence of pressurized water systems in high-rise buildings further reduced the need for the high-pressure system, which had been growing more and more expensive to maintain as it aged.

In 1978, the high-pressure mains were connected to the domestic water supply and the pumping equipment was disposed of. (The cost of new connections was deferred by money raised from the disposal of the old pumping equipment.) The Department's one remaining high-pressure monitor truck was retired from service to stand in a showroom at the Fire Fighters' Club.

The John Street pumping station was eventually demolished to make way for SkyDome and all hydrants were taken out of service early in 1989. The funds which maintained the high-pressure system will now be used to convert regular hydrants to include the Storz 100mm quick connect ports.

Medals and Awards for Valour

There are certain risks inherent with the fire fighting profession and are generally considered to be part of the job. Because of this, many times, acts of courage and bravery are taken for granted or just go unnoticed.

In an attempt to recognize fire fighters who have performed "beyond the call of duty", the Department initiated the Rescue and Merit Awards System.

The Department's highest level of recognition is the Commendation Award. It is presented to those individuals who have performed acts of bravery where there has been a risk to life, or where the actions taken were under severely stressful conditions for a considerable period of time. It has also been awarded when the actions taken by a fire fighter were so exceptional and effective that a potential tragedy was averted.

Fire fighter rushes the victim of a house fire on Carlaw Avenue to awaiting ambulance crews. Photo: Canada Wide

Commendation Awards

69 Petman Avenue - January 7
Fire Fighter Dieter Bertram
Fire Fighter Donald Peckford

8 Walmer Road - February 4
Captain William Adams
Fire Fighter Gregory Steffler
Captain Larry Burnett
Fire Fighter George Egerton
Fire Fighter Kenneth Bodrug

69 Spadina Road - February 5
Fire Fighter George Egerton
Fire Fighter Kenneth Bodrug
Acting Captain David Skinner
Fire Fighter John Brown
Fire Fighter Kieron Hickey

84 Empire Avenue - March 8
Fire Fighter Sean O'Hearn

173 Carlaw Avenue - March 9
Fire Fighter Mike Draper

187 Fairview Avenue - May 18
Fire Fighter Alexander Walker

30 Sheridan Avenue - May 23
Fire Fighter Alan Gouk

Fire fighting involves teamwork. Many times, rescues involve more than one fire fighter. To recognize the participation of the other crew members, the Department awards a Station Citation. It is presented to members who receive Commendation Awards and will hang in their respective fire stations.

The second level of recognition is the Letter of Merit. This award is given to fire fighters whose actions exemplified bravery, courage and dedication to duty during a rescue or other serious situation.

Letters of Merit

6 Spadina Road - January 25
Fire Fighter Fabian Ennis

1502 King Street West - February 12
Fire Fighter Alan Hunt

48 Isabella Street - March 7
Captain Kenneth MacRae
Fire Fighter Ken Brunton
Fire Fighter Timothy Archer

84 Empire Avenue - March 8
Fire Fighter Reginald Jones

173 Carlaw Avenue - March 9
Fire Fighter James Small
Fire Fighter Lamont Brown

584 Ontario Street - May 1
Fire Fighter Juris Perkons
Fire Fighter Andrew Pett

187 Fairview Avenue - May 18
Captain Edward McConnell

30 Sheridan Avenue - May 23
Fire Fighter Andrew Galica

The Department's third level of award is the Letter of Recognition. This tribute is given to those individuals who have acted in a highly skilled and professional manner, and are well deserving of formal recognition.

Letters of Recognition

69 Spadina Road - February 5
Fire Fighter John DeLory

173 Carlaw Avenue - March 9
Captain Ian Cochrane
Fire Fighter Jeffrey Penfound

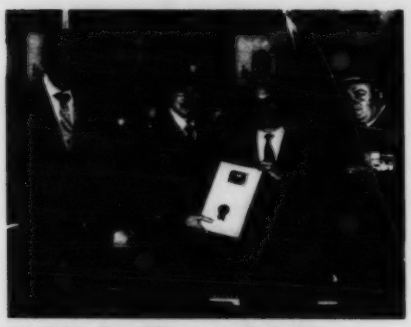
Many other agencies recognize the courage and bravery of fire fighters. The recipients for the following awards were nominated through the Departmental Rescue and Merit Award Program.

Knocking down remaining spot fires.

The Ontario Medal For Fire Fighters Bravery

On 1989 November 9th, three City of Toronto fire fighters received Ontario Medals for Fire Fighters Bravery. The Medals were presented by the Lieutenant Governor, The Honourable Lincoln Alexander to Fire Fighters Sean O'Hearn, 28, Alan Gouk, 31, and Alexander Walker, 33.

"The cornerstone of the award is the concept of bravery which denotes superlative courage without concern for personal safety."



Fire Fighter Sean O'Hearn proudly displays his Ontario Medal for Fire Fighters Bravery. Photo: Ministry of the Solicitor General

Sean O'Hearn

Smoke and flames were rolling out the second floor windows at 84 Empire Avenue as fire fighting crews arrived in the early hours of March 8th. They were informed that a person was trapped on the third floor directly above the raging fire. As fire fighters began to attack from the inside, fire fighters outside were experiencing great difficulties with extremely icy conditions, overhanging branches and downed live electrical wires.

Fire Fighter Sean O'Hearn raced up a ladder to the steep icy roof. Just as he got onto the roof, a downed electrical wire began arcing against his ladder, thus eliminating any chance of retreat. He made his way to the third floor dormer window just above the fire. Braving the flames raging from below, he smashed the window and climbed into the smoke-filled room.

Unable to see because of the thick, black smoke, Fire Fighter O'Hearn began a sweep search of the room. He located an unconscious man lying face down on the floor. Fire Fighter O'Hearn struggled with the very large, heavy man. He began shouting for assistance as he dragged the victim to the stairs.

Fire Fighter Reginald Jones entered the burning building through a second floor rear window. Conducting a search, he and his partner climbed to the third floor, moments after O'Hearn discovered the body. Coming to his aid, Fire Fighter Jones grabbed the victim's legs while Fire Fighter O'Hearn took hold of the arms and together they struggled to carry the victim down the narrow staircase through the smoke and heat. On the second floor, fire fighters were still fighting the fire. With the assistance and guidance of other crews, they carried the man outside to the waiting ambulance crews.

Fire Fighter Alan Gouk is congratulated upon receipt of his Ontario Medal for Fire Fighters Bravery. Photo: Ministry of the Solicitor General

Alan Gouk

In the early hours of May 23rd, fire fighting crews from Lansdowne Station No. 15 responded to a working fire at 30 Sheridan Avenue.

Upon arrival, they discovered flames shooting out from a front bedroom window on the second floor. Heavy flames, fuelled by garbage bags full of old clothes, quickly burnt through the ceiling to a third floor kitchen.

Fire Fighters Alan Gouk and Andy Galica quickly advanced a 38mm hoseline into the rooming house. They dragged the line up to the second floor and knocked down the fire in the front room and adjacent hallway. Through the heat, scalding water vapour and heavy smoke, they proceeded down the hallway to a locked door.

Fire Fighter Galica quickly forced open the door with his pry-axe. The door turned out to be the only means of egress to the third floor. The intense heat and dense black smoke on the third floor forced the two fire fighters to their knees. They had to crawl along the floor with their hoseline. Fire Fighter Gouk discovered an unconscious female victim lying on the kitchen floor. He handed her to Galica who took her to the entrance. Galica then passed her down a chain of fire fighters to safety.

Battling the heat and smoke, Gouk moved further into the room and stumbled upon a second victim. As Gouk started to drag the male victim to safety, the victim moved. With total disregard for his own safety, Fire Fighter Gouk instinctively removed the mask of his SCBA to give the victim a few breaths of fresh air. Fire Fighter Galica, hearing Gouk's calls for help, returned to the room. He saw Gouk put his mask back on. Gouk appeared to be fine, so he helped remove the severely burned man from the fire scene. After exiting the building, it was necessary to transport Fire Fighter Alan Gouk to the hospital for smoke inhalation treatment. Fire Fighter Gouk later returned to duty.

Fire Fighter Alexander Walker's courage is rewarded with an Ontario Medal for Fire Fighters Bravery. Photo: Ministry of the Solicitor General

Alexander Walker

As Pumper No. 31 rolled up in front of 187 Fairview Avenue, a police officer yelled to Fire Fighter Alexander Walker that a young girl was trapped inside the burning house. The officer had tried to enter the second floor but was driven back by the black, choking smoke and intense heat.

Fire Fighter Walker donned his self-contained breathing apparatus, ran into the house and made his way to the second floor where he was met by a wall of black smoke and scorching heat. He was followed by Captain Ted McConnell who called for a hoseline as Walker began to search the second floor. The heat was very intense as he entered a room and swept the floors with his arms and legs in search of the victim. He discovered a window and broke it in an attempt to clear some of the smoke. As he did this, the flames escalated in the immediate room. Fire Fighter Walker had to leave this room as the flames were rolling over his head along the ceiling.

Fire Fighter Walker and Captain McConnell remained on the second floor searching the rooms for the trapped girl. Fire Fighter Walker then stumbled upon a small staircase which was right beside the burning room. Despite the searing heat and zero visibility he climbed this staircase which led to two small rooms on the third floor. He was searching the floor, heading towards a light which he thought was a window, when he heard loud gurgling sounds; he discovered the unconscious 13 year-old girl lying on the floor.

He managed to drag the victim to the narrow staircase and was struggling to get her down the stairs when he was met by Captain McConnell. McConnell assisted to carry the unconscious girl to the second floor. By this time the flames had worsened and fire fighters were now attacking the fire with water.

The victim was passed to other fire fighters who quickly carried her down the stairs to the waiting ambulance crews.

Fire Fighter of the Year Award

The Junior Board of Trade/Toronto Jaycees named City of Toronto Fire Fighters Lamont Brown and Gerald George as the 1988 Fire Fighters of the Year.

This is the tenth year that this community group has recognized the courageous actions of our fire fighters. The award recipients are chosen by a panel of media judges from a short list of candidates suggested by the Department.

Lamont Brown and Gerald George

On 1988 January 7th, at 0144 hours, apparatus were dispatched to 86 Walpole Avenue for a reported house fire.

When fire fighters arrived, they were confronted with a serious

working fire in a two-storey attached dwelling. Flames were emitting from first floor doors and windows, igniting the outside insul-brick covering.

As crews with hoselines held back the flames, Fire Fighters Gerald George, Lamont Brown and Keith Budway worked their way through the intense heat and heavy smoke up a very narrow stairway to the second floor.

Fire Fighter George found two adult victims in a second floor bedroom which was directly above the fire. These victims were so severely burned that the fire fighters could not help them. Chief's Aide Budway radioed the District Chief as George and Brown continued to search for other victims.

In the rear second floor bedroom, Fire Fighters George and Brown discovered two unconscious females age 9 and 13 who were overcome by the smoke and heat. The fire fighters, each carrying a young victim, made their way down the narrow staircase, through the smoke and heat to the waiting ambulances.

Fire Fighters Brown and George also received the following award for their actions at this rescue.

Lamont Brown

Gerald George

Heroism and Community Services Award

Firehouse is the world's largest publication devoted exclusively to the fire service. Three Toronto Fire Fighters were selected to receive **Firehouse's** prestigious 1988 Heroism and Community Service Award. Fire Fighters Lamont Brown, Gerald George and Bill Thompson each received a personalized Medal of Valour.

Firehouse Magazine's Heroism and Community Service Award

Bill Thompson

On 1987 October 12th, Fire Fighter Bill Thompson, rescued an unconscious female from a fully involved apartment fire at 95 Lawton Blvd. After breaking down the door, Thompson located the victim in the intense heat and dense smoke and dragged her to the hallway. With help, he then carried the victim down six flights of stairs to ambulance crews. During the descent, Thompson shared his air mask with the victim to maintain a clear air supply.

Bill Thompson

Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal

The medal is a national award to recognize long and outstanding service in the high risk profession of fire service. It is available to fire service personnel with twenty years service of a nature that is "characterized by good conduct, industry and efficiency that serves as a model for others." Toronto Fire Department members are recommended by Chief Walter Shanahan. In 1989, twenty-six Toronto Fire Fighters received the medal, presented on behalf of, the Governor General of Canada, at Investiture Ceremonies.

Ontario Fire Services Long Service Medal

The Fire Services Long Service Medal is an expression of public appreciation for the dedication and hard work of Ontario fire fighters. The medal is officially recognized by the province and is included as a regulation in the Fire Marshal's Act. Thirty-six Toronto fire fighters received this medal in 1989.

The action is fast and furious at a third alarm blaze. Photo: Canada Wide

Acting Captain Gary Kennedy: A Tribute

Acting Captain Gary Kennedy, age 43, died on March 9, 1989 as a result of severe head injuries he received during a training accident.

On January 29, 1989, Kennedy and Fire Fighters Eric Hudson, Cameron Richardson and Michael Swift were thrown to the roof of the Adelaide Street fire station from the bucket of the Department's new 27-metre Bronto Skylift aerial tower. The third boom of the tower had failed and caused the bucket to tip. All four men suffered serious injuries; Acting Captain Kennedy never regained consciousness.

Only another fire fighter can really understand the special comradeship that binds fire fighters together. And only another fire fighter can comprehend the danger and risks that all fire fighters face in the course of doing their job. For this reason, when one of their own is lost, they are all part of that loss. On March 13th, more than 1,400 uniformed fire fighters from across North America joined Kennedy's family and friends for a full departmental funeral. The funeral procession and honour guard, led by Pumper No. 1, carried the flag-draped casket from the chapel of the Turner and Porter Funeral Home. Following the service, a reception was held in Kennedy's memory.

As a nineteen-year veteran of the Toronto Fire Department, Kennedy was immensely proud of the Department's fine tradition of service, and of his opportunity to serve the citizens of the City of Toronto. In 1986, he was honoured by the Junior Board of Trade/Toronto Jaycees as a co-recipient of the Fire Fighter of the Year Award for his daring and courageous rescue of an unconscious male victim from a serious house fire at 115 Baldwin Street on 1985 November 4th.

Respected by his peers for his strong leadership qualities, Acting Captain Kennedy always took the time to share his expertise and to motivate younger fire fighters. He enjoyed the spirit of comraderie among fellow fire fighters by whom he will be remembered as a trusted friend and colleague. His death is a great loss to the profession he loved.

Kennedy was the former husband of Lorraine, dear father of Derek and Kyle and fiance of Elizabeth Wenger. He is also survived by his mother Yvonne and sister Sandra.

More than 1,400 strong, fire fighters gather to honour one of their own.

Number of Alarms for the 10 'Busiest' Fire Apparatus

						1989	1988
Apparatus	**Total Fires**	**Medical**	**False**	**Misc.**	**Total Other Runs**	**Total**	**Total**
Pumper 3	272	1,327	374	2,297	3,998	4,270	4,154
Pumper 1	263	1,114	276	2,400	3,790	4,053	3,254
Pumper 4	372	949	978	1,222	3,149	3,521	2,854
Pumper 7	373	971	1,040	1,131	3,142	3,515	4,160
High Rise 1	265	17	439	2,493	2,949	3,214	2,970
Aerial 7	359	12	1,121	1,510	2,643	3,002	2,388
Pumper 10	220	867	240	1,534	2,641	2,861	2,850
Pumper 5	203	574	280	1,655	2,509	2,712	2,255
Pumper 11	208	859	338	1,203	2,400	2,608	2,860
Aerial 1	168	16	230	2,036	2,282	2,451	2,245

Canada's busiest fire apparatus.

Rescue crews work quickly to free a victim trapped in a vehicle on the Gardiner Expressway.

TFD First Aid Team Still Tops

In addition to their fire fighting and rescue duties, Toronto fire fighters responded to over 19,000 medical emergencies in 1989. Usually first on the scene, fire fighters provide victims with basic life support. As part of their training, all Toronto fire fighters receive certification in first-aid and Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation and each Department pumper carries a ventilator and first aid supplies as standard equipment.

With all this job-related experience and training, its not surprising that Toronto fire fighters' first aid teams have a tradition of winning competitions. For the past two years they have won overall Provincial Championships, in addition to placing seventh in an international competition that was held last year in Prince Edward Island.

In 1989, the winning legacy was handed down to a new team consisting of Fire Fighters Hugh Mark and Paul Versace from the B-2 Shift. They had their work cut out for them, but Mark and Versace picked up right where their predecessors had left off.

The 19th St. John Ambulance Ontario Council Annual Open First Aid Competition was held at the Fort York Armouries on 1989 April 15th. At this competition the Toronto team won the Levitt Safety Shield. This award goes to the best fire fighting team in the competition. 1989 was the third year in a row that the TFD team laid claim to this trophy. The team then went on to place a very respectable eighth, in a large field of 49 teams, for the overall Ontario Championship. Their competition included teams from the military, Provincial Police, the mining industry, nuclear generating stations, other fire departments and the St. John Ambulance.

Fire Fighter Hugh Mark

Fire Fighter Paul Versace

Multiple Alarms

An incident that requires 10 or more apparatus and crews to bring under control is called a multiple alarm. In 1989, there were 24 incidents of such severity or complexity that they were accorded multiple alarm status - 20 second alarm and 4 third alarm incidents. Quick response times and the high level of competence of our fire fighters has kept the level of multiple alarm fires to a minimum.

Each Fire Department has its own system to categorize response levels. The following is a description of the different levels of alarms that the City of Toronto Fire Department uses:

Single Apparatus Response

One apparatus only (any type).

First Alarm

A normal first alarm consists of 2 pumpers, 1 aerial and a District Chief. In some cases, depending on the structure, location, or number of calls received, a rescue squad, Highrise No. 1 or the fireboat may be dispatched.

Assist Call

An assist call will normally consist of 1 additional pumper and 1 additional aerial over a normal first alarm, or any combination of 5 or 6 apparatus if a rescue squad, Highrise No. 1 and fireboat (on standby) was dispatched on the initial assignment. Air Supply 1 will always be dispatched to an assist call incident.

Help Call

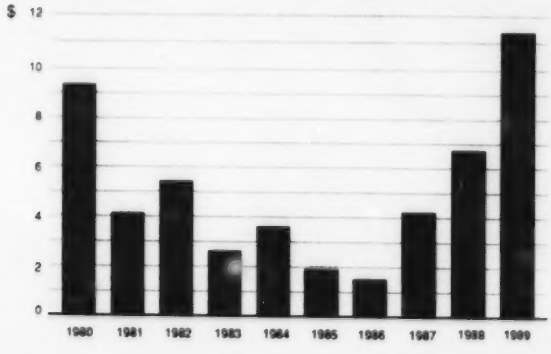
A help call will normally consist of 2 additional pumpers, 1 additional aerial and a rescue squad over a first alarm, or any combination of 7 apparatus to a maximum of 9 apparatus. Hazard 1 will always be dispatched to a help call at night to provide lighting as will Air Supply 1.

Second Alarm

A second alarm will normally consist of 6 pumpers, 3 aerials and a rescue squad, or any combination of 10 apparatus. Air Supply 1 and Hazard 1 will always be dispatched to a second alarm incident.

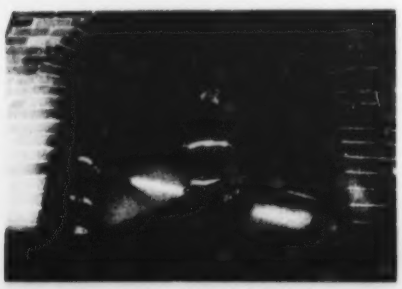
Fire crews battle a stubborn second alarm fire on East Liberty Street. Photo: Canada Wide

Losses Due to Arson 1980 - 1989 (Millions of Dollars)



Multiple Alarm Fires

Date	Time (hrs)	Address	Occupancy	Cause	Alarm Level
January 25	0718	149 St. Clarens Ave.	residential	accidental	2nd
February 5	0343	69 Spadina Rd.	rooming house	under investigation	2nd
February 11	0335	635 Dupont St.	dual purpose dwelling	under investigation	2nd
February 27	1109	197 Spadina Ave.	clothing manufacturer	under investigation	2nd
March 10	0944	1219 Dundas St. W.	commercial	electrical	2nd
March 16	0245	661 Dufferin St.	home for the aged	candle	2nd
April 14	0355	850 Ossington Ave.	residential	under investigation	2nd
May 4	1721	995 Bloor St. W.	dual purpose dwelling	careless smoking	2nd
May 19	0207	338 Bathurst St.	vacant/residential	transients/careless smoking	2nd
May 19	0244	509 Eastern Ave.	rooming house	under investigation	2nd
June 9	0341	514 Lansdowne Ave.	rooming house	under investigation	2nd
June 25	0306	1385 Bloor St. W.	warehouses	arson	3rd+
June 29	1459	444 Dufferin St.	rail shed/box cars	under investigation	2nd
August 15	1725	2240 St. Clair Ave. W.	food processing	ammonia leak	2nd
September 4	0130	1205 Queen St. W.	pizza parlour	arson	2nd
September 12	0227	730 Ontario St.	high rise apartment	electrical	2nd+
October 16	0047	207 Ossington Ave.	dual purpose dwelling	arson	2nd
October 19	2215	9 Beaumont Rd.	under construction/residential	under investigation	2nd
November 19	2256	423 Dundas St. E.	under renovation/residential	under investigation	3rd
November 28	0629	135 Berkeley St.	under renovation/commercial	under investigation	3rd
December 2	1351	132A East Liberty St.	warehouse	under investigation	2nd
December 3	2036	2254 Bloor St. W.	dual purpose dwelling	under investigation	2nd
December 17	2125	83 Sackville St.	vacant/residential	under investigation	2nd
December 23	1717	344 Queen St. E.	rooming house	arson	3rd



Quick response times and the high level of competence of our fire fighters has kept the number of multiple alarm fires to a minimum.

Third Alarm

A third alarm will normally consist of 9 pumpers, 4 aerials and a rescue squad, or any combination of 14 apparatus. Air Supply 1 and Hazard 1 will always be dispatched to a third alarm incident. Any additional apparatus required will be dispatched and the incident will be called a third alarm plus.

Head-line making multiple-alarm responses

Although every fire has its own elements of danger, drama and tragedy, it's the multiple alarm incident with the red fire truck-lined streets and hustling fire crews that attract the attention of the public and the press. The following three occurrences were the biggest "headline grabbers" in 1989.

1385 Bloor Street West - June 25 - 0306 hours

As fire fighting crews arrived at the empty warehouse that was once Cochrane-Dunlop Hardware, they were confronted with what would become one of the most spectacular fires of the year.

Flames were shooting out of all the first floor windows and heavy smoke, billowing out of the 5-storey building, blanketed the area. Fuelled by wood combustibles and oil-soaked mill-wood floors, the fire spread rapidly through the 7,432 square metre structure. District Chief Edwards quickly put the call in for a second alarm response.

When Acting Platoon Chief Bob Martin arrived on scene, he up-graded the fire to third alarm status. Just as fire fighters were setting up to attack this fire, the warehouse two buildings over also went up and was rolling in flames. Fire fighters now had two major infernos to contend with.

Within 20 minutes the flames had broken through the roofs of both buildings sending flames into the early morning sky. The fire fighters "dug in" and prepared for a long battle.

Four aerials, set up for water tower operations, four ground monitors, and numerous handlines were used to deluge the fire with water. Because of the location of the second warehouse, relays had to be set up to get water to the fire fighters.

It took more than 10 hours for 27 trucks and 118 fire fighters to bring this awesome third alarm plus blaze under control. The total fire loss was estimated to be $5,000,000.

It was later discovered that the building between the two warehouses on fire was also rigged to ignite. Fortunately for the crews that night, detonation did not occur.

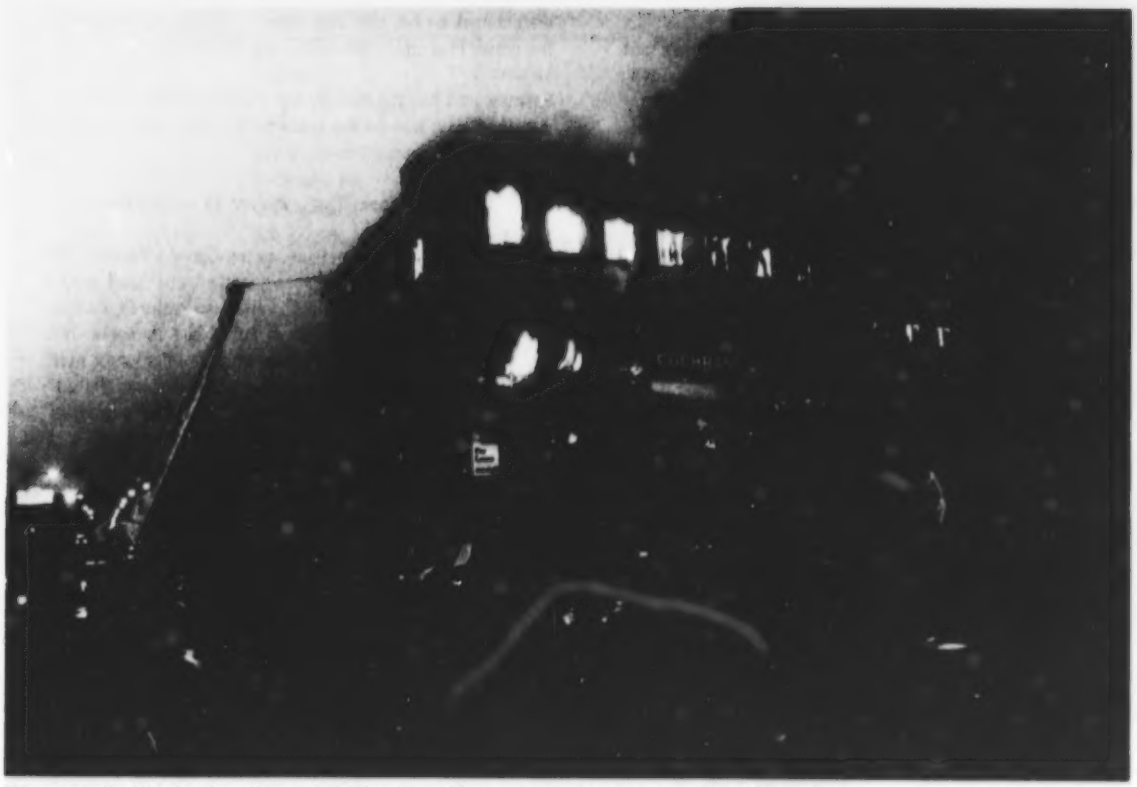
Following an investigation by the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office, a suspect who was on the scene at the blaze was charged with 2 counts of arson.

2240 St. Clair Avenue West - August 15 - 1725 hours

On arrival, fire crews dispatched to the Canada Packers Plant for an ammonia leak could see a dense vapour cloud forming outside the engine room. A stop valve had ruptured, flooding the area with massive amounts of anhydrous ammonia. This gas, used in the refrigeration of meat, burns the lungs, eyes, nose, throat and any area where the body perspires. Police officers on scene were warned by their dispatchers to stay back and let fire fighters carry out the rescue efforts.

The first fire fighters on the scene entered the building, without the protection of special chemical suits that were still enroute to the scene. They rescued a badly burned worker but sustained burn injuries in the process. Unfortunately, the victim succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Special chemical suits protect fire fighters at hazardous materials incidents.



This spectacular third plus alarm blaze at 1385 Bloor Street West was sparked by an arsonist. Photo: Bill Sandford

The plant was evacuated and, for a time, officials feared that the surrounding industrial area and the neighbourhood to the north would also have to be cleared.

Numerous hoselines, unmanned water monitors and aerial water towers were set up to disperse the deadly vapours. A couple of times, frontline fire fighters found themselves in the vapour cloud and had to drop back because of shifting air currents. Water curtains were also used to protect crews performing rescue operations and rescue squad members who were attempting to locate and shut off the source of the leak.

Hazard 1, the Department's hazardous materials response unit, was set up as the command centre for Chief Shanahan. After about two hours, the spill was contained and the actual leak was stopped. But it was not until the following day that acceptable levels of ammonia were reached that would allow officials to investigate the area of the leak.

All told, it took 56 fire fighters, using 14 fire fighting apparatus to bring this incident under full control.

344 Queen Street East - December 23 - 1717 hours

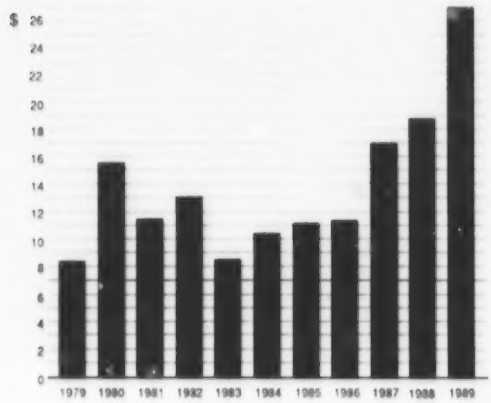
While enroute to a help call at 619 Parliament Street, Air Supply 1 driver William Turner came upon the Rupert Hotel fully involved in flames. He immediately radioed Communications for assistance and tried to help residents escape the conflagration.

A dense column of smoke billowed into the sky as the flames quickly consumed the old wooden interior of the 3-storey rooming house. The orange glow of the flames lit up the neighbourhood and could be seen for blocks.

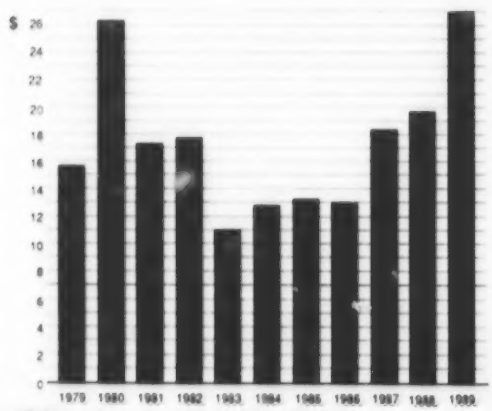
Fire crews arrived to find panic-stricken residents jumping from second storey windows. The fire fighters immediately set up ladders to the upper floors to rescue residents and advanced hoselines up fire escapes to try and cool the blaze. Fire fighters tried every avenue of entry to gain access for search and rescue but were constantly turned back by the intense heat and flames. The inferno became so hot, with flames shooting out of all the windows and exits, that it soon became impossible to enter. With debris falling around them, fire fighters were forced to abandon rescue operations. The risk of structural collapse was too great.

Power to the area was cut by hydro workers so that fire crews could set up aerials. Several sixty-five-millimetre lines were laid

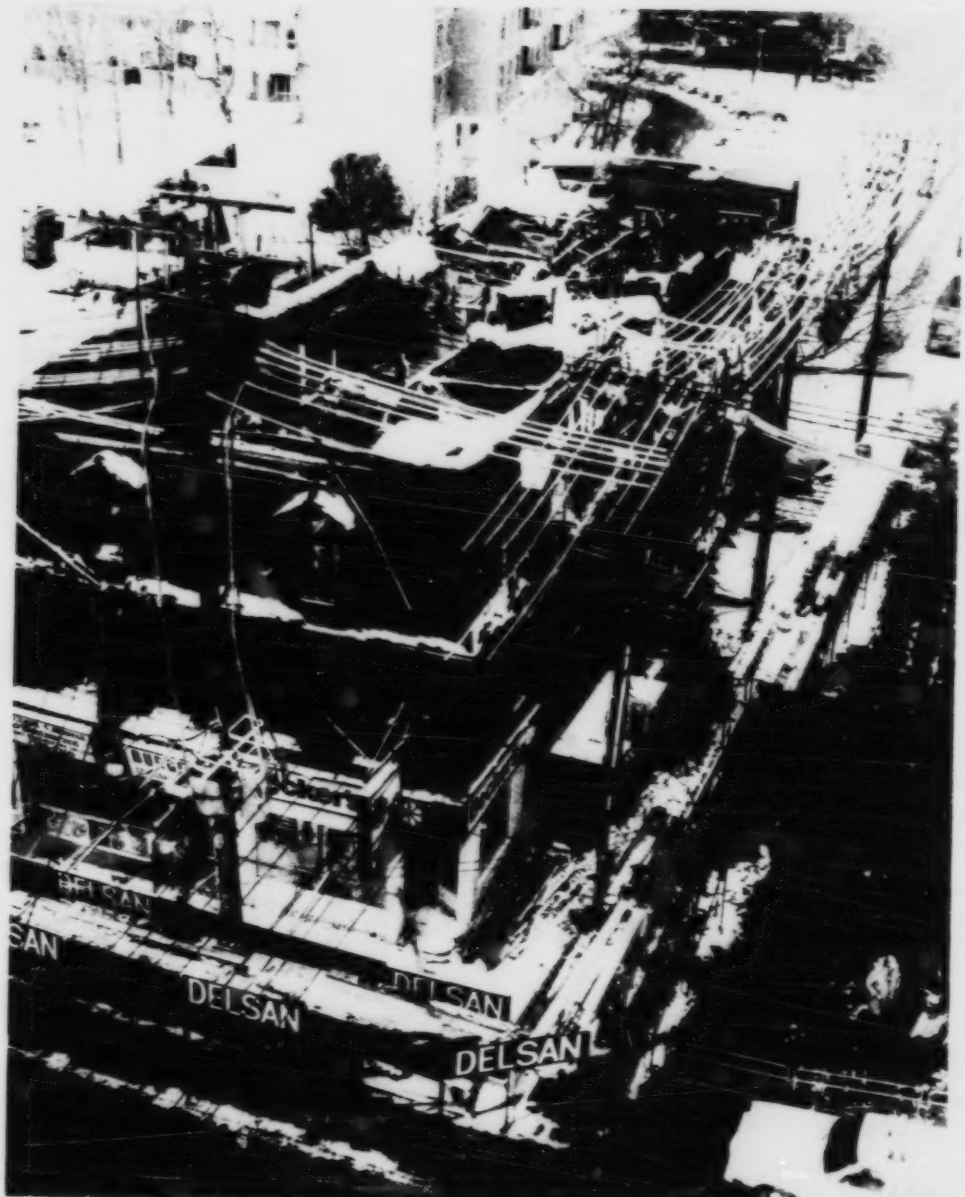
Fire Losses 1979 - 1989 (Millions of Current Dollars)



Fire Losses 1979 - 1989 (Millions of Constant 1989 Dollars)



(Dollar values are adjusted for inflation)



The aftermath of the Rupert Hotel fire, one of the Toronto's worst disasters. The total cost of this tragedy was horrendous: 10 dead, 17 residents and 14 fire fighters injured.

out and four aerials were set up as water towers, enabling fire fighters to douse the flames from above and protect exposures from the radiant heat. The freezing air temperature hampered fire fighting efforts and water spray quickly turned to ice.

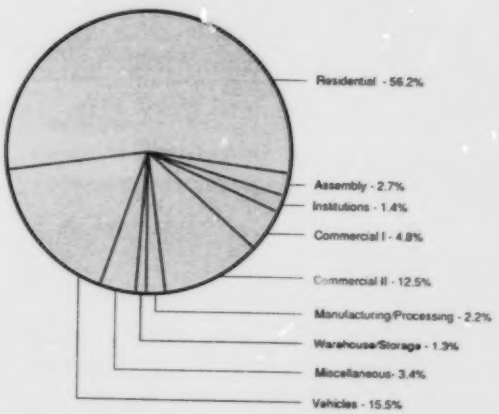
It took the crews of 18 fire fighting apparatus over 3 hours to bring this blaze under control. After it was over, fire fighters located four bodies. But the grim search for victims continued over the next few days. Demolition crews were called in and started taking the building apart piece by piece. The total human cost of this tragedy was horrendous: 10 dead, 17 residents and 14 fire fighters injured. This was the deadliest fire Toronto had seen since the Noronic fire in 1949 when 119 people perished aboard the cruise ship which was tied up at Pier 9 on the waterfront.

The police apprehended and charged a suspect, who had rented at room at the Rupert Hotel, with 10 counts of second degree murder.

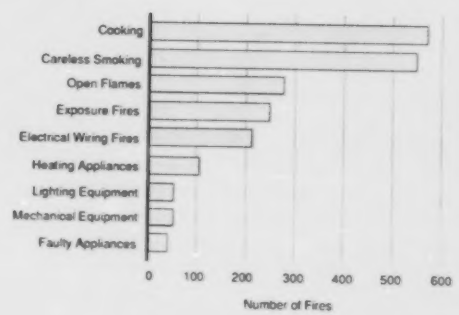
The Fire Department, in conjunction with the City of Toronto Department of Buildings and Inspections has planned to begin an "inspection blitz" of rooming houses in 1990.

Raging flames and intense heat hampered fire fighters' rescue attempts at the Rupert Hotel rooming house.
Photo: Canada Wide

Structure and Vehicles by Property Classification



Most Common Sources of Ignition



Fire Prevention Division

John W. Collins
Director of Fire Prevention Division

The adage "forewarned is forearmed" could certainly be applied to the activities of the Fire Prevention Division. With their expertise in such areas as building retrofit, public education, pre-fire planning, and the latest developments in fire safety technology, divisional staff work to ensure that citizens of all ages know how to be safe from fire.

Ontario Fire Code

Through the enforcement of the Ontario Fire Code, fire incidences can be significantly reduced and property losses minimized. The division's 23 inspectors ensure that all Fire Code violations are corrected in existing buildings, and that new structures comply with all fire safety regulations prior to occupancy. A new building cannot be occupied until the Fire Department is satisfied that all fire safety features are installed and in working order. In most cases, building owners willingly comply with requirements of the Fire Code. However, it is sometimes necessary to utilize the legal process to extract co-operation. In 1989, $92,600 in fines were levied in 320 code violation cases.

Routine Fire Code inspections are conducted under the Pre-Fire Inspection Program (PIP). Specially trained, in-service fire fighters identify any fire code infractions while they make detailed drawings of building floor plans. In addition to correcting any Fire Code problems, specific information which could aid fire fighters is collected. After this information is transferred to microfiche, it is carried in the District Chiefs' vehicles for use during an emergency.

Toronto's older high risk buildings are also checked regularly to ensure that they meet requisite minimum life safety standards through the retrofit requirement of the Ontario Fire Code. Rooming houses, nursing homes, churches, theatres, etc. must meet these minimum standards regardless of the year the structure was erected or last altered. Required improvements can include the installation of fire alarm and detection systems, construction of protected exits and the implimentation of other measures to limit the spread of heat and smoke.

Breaking new ground at SkyDome

Without a doubt, the most intensely watched construction project in 1989 was the completion of SkyDome. Creating the world's first multi-purpose stadium with a retractable roof was a tremendous challenge for everyone involved, and for the Toronto Fire Department it was an opportunity to break new ground in fire safety technology.

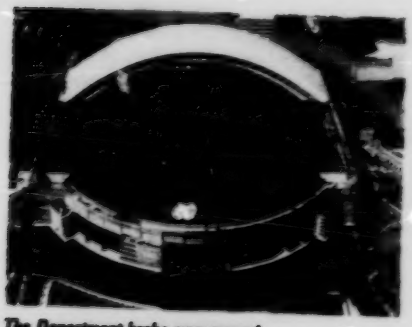
Fire Prevention Officer Kim Dobson first became involved with the SkyDome project in 1987 at the initial design stage. In cooperation with SkyDome's design and construction team, the Toronto Fire Department was instrumental in developing a state-of-the-art computerized fire alarm system that consists of more than 1,200 alarm initiating devices that cover the stadium's entire eight acre area. SkyDome also contains more than ten kilometres of fire hose.

In the unlikely event of a full evacuation, the alarm system would automatically shutdown the power to the event in progress. This feature is only one of a number of many "firsts" that were incorporated into the design of the SkyDome fire alarm system.

In the final weeks leading up to the opening of SkyDome there were more than a few anxious moments when it looked like the "Dome" wouldn't make its scheduled opening. Bearing in mind that there can be no compromises where the public's safety is concerned, Prevention staff worked around the clock to ensure that all fire safety concerns were satisfied. To the credit of all involved, SkyDome opened on schedule.

Capping off SkyDome's opening extravaganza was a spectacular display of fireworks. Firing explosives from the rooftops of downtown Toronto had never before been attempted and understandably every conceivable precaution was taken to ensure public safety. During the display, all office towers between York, Bay, Adelaide and Front streets were evacuated and the streets closed. Even the traffic flow on the expressways was choreographed to provide a precisely timed break in vehicles moving in the downtown core area.

Just part of the job: fire fighters set up inside SkyDome in preparation for a childrens' Christmas party.



The Department breaks new ground at SkyDome. Photo: Ian Steer

Public relations functions

The Information Section is at the centre of many public events that involve the Department, coordinating the activities of other Fire Department divisions and dealing with event organizers, the public and the media. From parades and fun fairs to staging the world's largest childrens' Christmas party, rarely a week passes without the Information Section organizing some type of community activity. The four member team, which consists of a Chief Information Officer and three Information Officers, is also responsible for photographing major incidents and departmental events and producing a number of internal departmental materials including this annual report.

Sparky hams it up with CityTV's Greg Rist during the media launch for Kidsummer.

Recognition and awards

Fire fighters accept and understand that they put their lives on the line every time they respond to an emergency — for them it's all in a day's work. The Department's fire fighters get their greatest sense of satisfaction from knowing that they've given their best — no other thanks are necessary. However, when fire fighters perform exceptional acts of bravery extra recognition is merited.

The Department's Rescue and Merit Awards program is coordinated by the Information Section staff. Using forms developed by the section, officers submit reports of fire fighter bravery and exceptional acts. An information officer follows up on these reports with personal interviews with the people involved and sends an impartial account to the Awards Committee for review. In addition to departmental awards, the Awards Committee also nominates eligible fire fighters for numerous external awards such as the Junior Board of Trade Fire Fighter of the Year, the Ontario Medal for Fire Fighters Bravery and Canadian Fire Fighter of the Year.

Fostering greater understanding

Media support is crucial to the success of any fire safety education campaign undertaken by the Department, or whenever a need exists to convey information to the public. In recognition of the importance of maintaining a good working relationship with Toronto's press, Information Section staff ensure that media have access to accurate information as quickly as possible.

Media Appreciation Day, staged as a joint effort by the Information Section, the Fire Academy and the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 113, is a well-received annual event that allows fire fighters and members of the media to gain a better understanding of each other's roles.

Following a presentation on the Department's structure and goals, and advice on who to contact at the scene of an emergency, the media don full turnout gear (including SCBA) and try their hand at being a fire fighter. They are taken through a simulated house fire, battle a small oil-fed fire, climb a 15-meter ladder and ride in an aerial tower platform.

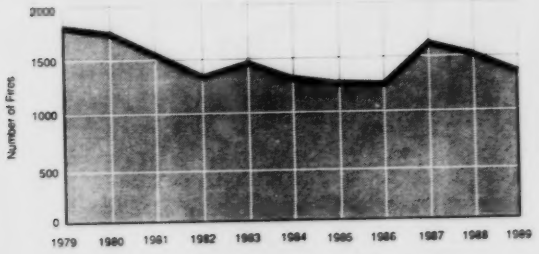
Media Appreciation Day is a very popular event that often receives prominent coverage in news broadcasts and newspapers.

The Information Office is responsible for maintaining a good working relationship with Toronto's media personalities. Here, MuchMusic's Steve Anthony interviews Acting Director Ralph Smith of the Training Division.

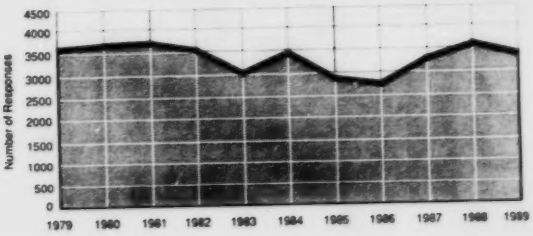
Training Officer Kevin Donby buckles up a local radio announcer during Media Appreciation Day activities.

Every year the Department increases its Fire Prevention efforts to avoid tragedies such as this house fire. Photo: Canada Wide

Residential Fires 1979 - 1989



Malicious False Alarms 1979 - 1989



Inspector Sam Mastomagus fields questions on fire safety during Fire Prevention Week.

Education for all ages

Fire Prevention staff staged 191 seminars in 1989, attracting more than 21,000 participants. Topics covered included fire alarm systems, fire safety planning, the use of portable fire extinguishers and evacuation procedures. Presentations were tailored to the needs of particular groups. Commercial building owners, property managers, health care professionals and members of the general public were among the groups who attended.

The Department's innovative school program teaches fire safety to school children in junior kindergarten to grade three. Youngsters are very receptive to instruction on what to do in case of fire, how and when to call the Fire Department, the need for smoke alarms, and the importance of preparing a fire escape plan. Ideally, this information will be shared with their parents and siblings. The whole experience is enhanced with an opportunity to view fire fighting equipment — always a crowd pleaser!

Sparky greets a young friend.

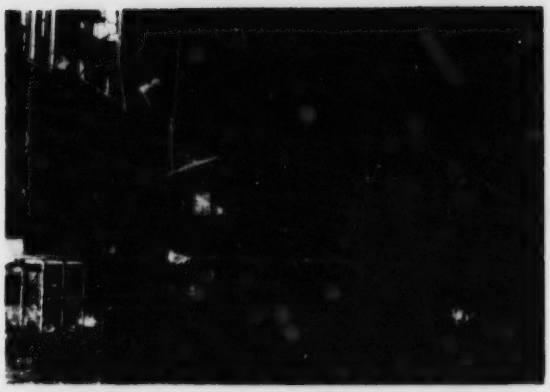
Assembly occupancy checks

Once large public buildings such as SkyDome are in use, they are subject to regular inspections under the division's occupancy safety check program. District Chiefs check "assembled occupancies" during peak use hours to check for overcrowding, blocked or obstructed exit ways, and inoperative fire safety equipment.

Taking fire safety to the streets

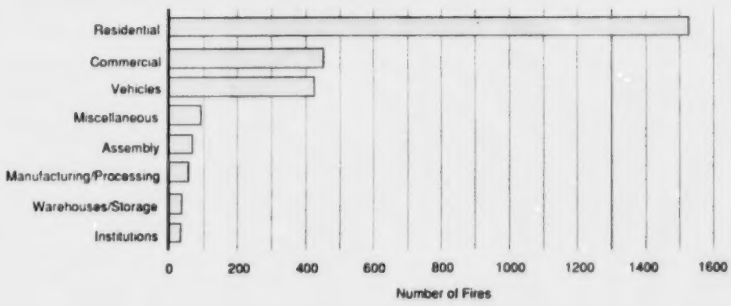
The Toronto Fire Department will literally go door to door to promote fire safety in the home. As part of the "Get Alarmed Home Inspection Program" in-service fire crews conduct home inspections in city wards that have the greatest incidence of fire.

The importance of installing and maintaining smoke alarms is central to all public education efforts. This message was brought home during Fire Prevention Week when fire fighters blitzed all areas of the city to alert homeowners to the importance of smoke alarms. Many homeowners were shocked to discover that they were living with a false sense of security when they learned that their smoke alarms did not function. In cases were the batteries were dead, replacement batteries were left as part of the "Change Your Clock/Change Your Battery" promotion.

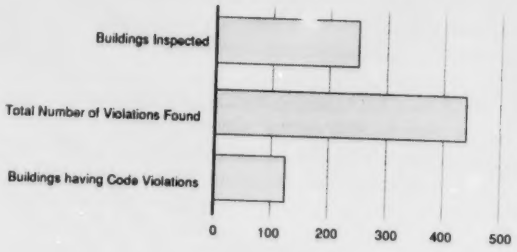


In 1989, $92,800 in fines were levied in 320 Fire Code violation cases.

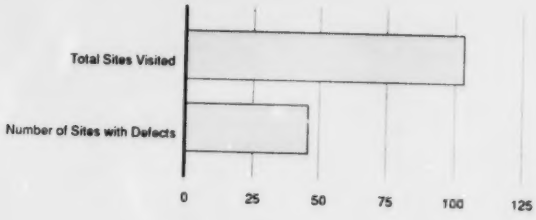
Locations of Fire, by Property Classification



Pre-Fire Planning and Inspection Program (PIP)



Safety Checks for Assembly Occupancies



Fire fighters point out potential fire hazards during home inspections. In a fire situation, escape down this hallway would be next to impossible.

Rommit P. Goode
Director of Fire Planning and Operations Research Division

Today's fire fighter must be prepared with the most current and accurate information available in order to respond to rapidly changing types of emergencies. To meet this challenge, the Fire Planning and Operations Research Division is continually expanding and updating the Department's map books and geographical database files. Division staff support the operation of the Computer Aided Dispatch System, and they also coordinate the Pre-fire Inspection and Planning (PIP) Program in addition to collecting and maintaining operational data. The administration of the Hazardous Materials Program and the management of a variety of other special projects are also controlled from this division.

SkyDome undergoes PIP inspection

In 1989, PIP crews from seven apparatus conducted 360 inspections, mostly of high-rise apartment and office buildings and places of public assembly. The most challenging PIP location was Toronto's new retractable-roof stadium, SkyDome, which took an Adelaide Station pumper crew the entire season to pre-plan and document. Hazardous materials staff continued their specialized pre-planning for chemical emergencies, with the result that there are now Haz-Mat plans for 25 selected locations.

Since the inception of the PIP program in 1982, a total of 6,559 municipal addresses have been inspected for pre-planning purposes. All details of floorplans and occupancy of inspected premises have been put on microfiche by Planning and Research staff to bring the total number of pre-plan microfiche to 420. A full set of microfiche is carried in each chief's van for use at an incident scene.

Other data on microfiche include the City's property data maps, a series of extremely detailed maps that show the location of all structures and road allowances. A new series of microfiche on underground and pole transformers has been added to existing data on PCB-filled transformers and capacitors.

As mentioned in Chief Shanahan's report, the large volume hydrant system was removed from Toronto streets in 1989. The removal of the hydrants in turn necessitated updating of all microfiche containing water supply data.

Late in 1988 ward boundaries in the City of Toronto were changed to bring the total number of wards from 11 to 16. This change had considerable impact on the division's mapping function, and on our statistical reporting systems that are based on wards and sub-wards. Division staff produced new wall maps that are used in all fire station floor-watch rooms. Larger scale wall maps were also produced for most stations where they are used during "street drill" familiarization training.

In anticipation of a soon to be initiated PIP project in Toronto's underground shopping mall system (7 kilometres of interconnected shopping and another 4 kilometres of service tunnels and public passages), division staff created a digitized map of the shopping system based on existing downtown street maps.

Divisional staff regularly conduct familiarization tours of major downtown buildings for first-due fire fighting crews. Of special note this year were tours of SkyDome (both before and after its opening), the subway system with particular emphasis on the Eglinton West station, and the magnetic resonance imaging suite at Princess Margaret Hospital where an intensive magnetic field would present a dangerous challenge to fire fighters should an emergency occur.

Fire fighters test their readiness during a simulated hazardous materials incident.

To ensure information concerning road closures and repairs is as up-to-date as possible, and access for fire apparatus is maintained, divisional staff meet regularly with staff from the Metropolitan Toronto Transportation Department.

Simulations test departmental readiness

In order to test the readiness of personnel and equipment, the Department stages numerous simulated emergencies, including large-scale, multi-agency exercises. Two large-scale simulations in 1989 provided valuable experience for participating personnel and resulted in the formulation of recommendations for fine-tuning existing procedures.

The first simulated emergency, a chemical spill scenario, was set up in the City of York and responded to by crews from York, North York, Etobicoke and Toronto. Since all hazardous materials procedures in Metropolitan Toronto are coordinated through a haz-mat subcommittee of the Metro Fire Chiefs Committee, the chemical spill simulation was of great value in assessing the integration of the four fire departments' haz-mat response methodologies.

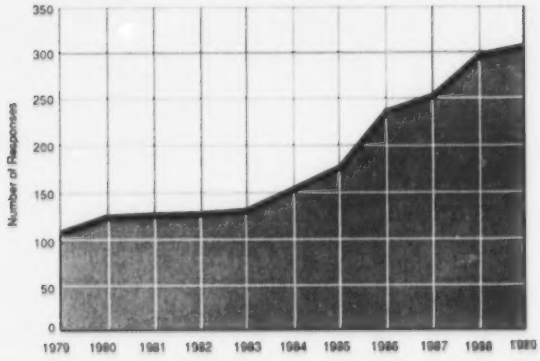
The second simulation, termed "Operation Siamese", involved hundreds of responding participants. The mock disaster involved an aircraft collision over Lake Ontario with one aircraft plunging into the lake and a wide-bodied passenger jet crashing into a sewage treatment plant to create a chlorine emergency as well.

On its way down, the jumbo jet was to have taken out a hydro transmission tower and overturned a bi-level GO commuter train. The incident was staged on the border of Toronto and Etobicoke so that fire departments from both cities were extensively involved in extrication, hazardous material incident handling, fire suppression, and protection of the helicopter landing area. The Toronto Fire Department's fireboat participated in an air and marine search for bodies in the lake. Ironically, the simulated crash was in the same location as the collision of two RCAF "Snowbirds" during an air show seven days earlier.

Taking water samples for analysis following a chemical leak at a nearby industrial plant.

A fire fighter undergoes decontamination procedures.

Hazardous Materials Responses 1979 - 1989



Incidents involving hazardous materials

A total of 305 incidents involving hazardous materials occurred in 1989, up from 294 in 1988 and 103 ten years earlier. As the following breakdown indicates, chemical spills and leaks were the most common cause of hazaradous materials incidents in 1989:

108 chemical spills and leaks
102 fires involving hazardous materials
73 propane leaks
8 incidents involving chemical fumes
5 incidents involving bombs/explosives
4 explosions
4 miscellaneous hazardous materials incidents
1 radioactive materials incident

The year's most serious hazardous materials emergency occurred at a meat-packing plant where an ammonia leak killed one civilian and injured eleven other people (including emergency response personnel). Another incident that proved to be a challenge for response personnel and decontamination teams occurred when an unidentified person spilled deadly pesticides at four different locations in one week.

In view of incidents such as the foregoing and the increase in the number of hazardous materials incidents from year to year, the Department has attached particular importance to the acquisition of new chemical protective clothing. With the delivery of additional chemical suits in 1989, the Department now maintains an inventory of 12 fully-encapsulating suits and 40 disposable suits.

Division staff are in regular contact with representatives of industries involved in the manufacturing and shipping of chemicals and they also participate in a wide variety of committees and planning groups. An increase in illegal drug labs led to divisional staff developing a drug-awareness training program in conjunction with Metro Toronto Police and Health and Welfare Canada. Nine staff members also attended the annual Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference in Rockville, Maryland where they received both classroom and hands-on training. This knowledge is being used to develop training programs for our crews.

Air Supply 1 driver decontaminates air cylinders used at an industrial ammonia leak.

V. James Sordi
Director of Administration Division

Ensuring that all divisions of the Toronto Fire Department receive the best support services possible is the number one priority of the Administration Division.

Under the direction of Jim Sordi, and with input from directors and platoon chiefs, Administration personnel managed the operating budget. In addition to their budget-related duties, the division staff provide secretarial and clerical support to all divisions, process payroll and other personnel paperwork, oversee all of the Department's purchasing transactions, and facilitate many head office functions, including mail delivery and telephone reception.

Candidates measure up

Owing to a higher than anticipated rate of retirement, the 1989 recruitment drive was commenced almost immediately after the 1988 drive ended — almost one year ahead of earlier projections. In 1989, 2,257 applications were received for review.

As always, the Department chooses only the most qualified applicants to train to become fire fighters. To ensure that candidates measure up to the Department's tough standards, applicants are put through an intensive evaluation process that includes aptitude, health, medical and job-related testing, in addition to a personal interview.

Career awareness program

As in 1988, Administration staff managed the 1989 recruitment drive with a focus on increasing probationary fire fighter applications from women and visible minorities to reflect the increasingly cosmopolitan make-up of Toronto.

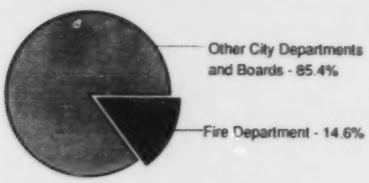
Through the efforts of career awareness program manager Marion Lagowski and her team, career information sessions were staged in the City's elementary and secondary schools, community colleges, and universities. Building on their ongoing relationship with representatives of Toronto's multicultural communities, the team made numerous career presentations to Native, Black, Southeast Asian, East Asian and South Asian groups; career sessions were also organized in cooperation with several women's groups. In total, more than 14,000 people were introduced to the Department's career information sessions.

Supporting these outreach efforts were displays in shopping centres in culturally-diverse neighbourhoods, and advertisements in Toronto's ethnic and daily newspapers and bus shelters. Print and broadcast media were instrumental in providing excellent coverage of the Department's recruitment efforts.

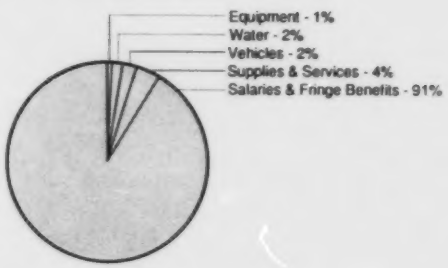
As part of the Department's Goals and Timetables Program, all officers participated in a course on managing diversity which provided details of Human Rights legislation and its application in a multicultural and multi-racial workforce.

Displays in shopping centres in culturally-diverse neighbourhoods supported the Department's outreach efforts.

City of Toronto Operating Budget



T.F.D. Operating Budget



Training Division

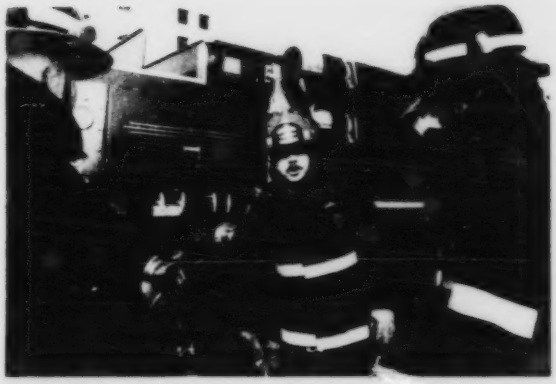
William T. Mount
Director of Training Division

The Training Division ensures fire fighters develop and maintain the required knowledge and skills to control and prevent fire, perform rescues, practice first aid and control hazardous materials incidences.

Department personnel are sent to the Academy for both theoretical and practical instruction. This instruction may be in the form of re-certification programs, refresher training, training exercises or formal training on new equipment and concepts.

The Toronto Fire Academy, located at 895 Eastern Avenue, is home to the Training, Technical Services, and Medical Divisions, as well as to Fire Station No. 30. The Academy includes a 500-seat auditorium, a seven-storey indoor training tower, two classrooms equipped with audio-visual aids and numerous outdoor amenities that are used to stage realistic emergency situations.

Training activities vary from year to year, depending on the need and priority for the many courses offered at the Academy. During 1989, the majority of training activities focused on recruit training, training in new and specialized equipment, and updating on-going certification courses in breathing apparatus, CPR and first aid, and driver training.



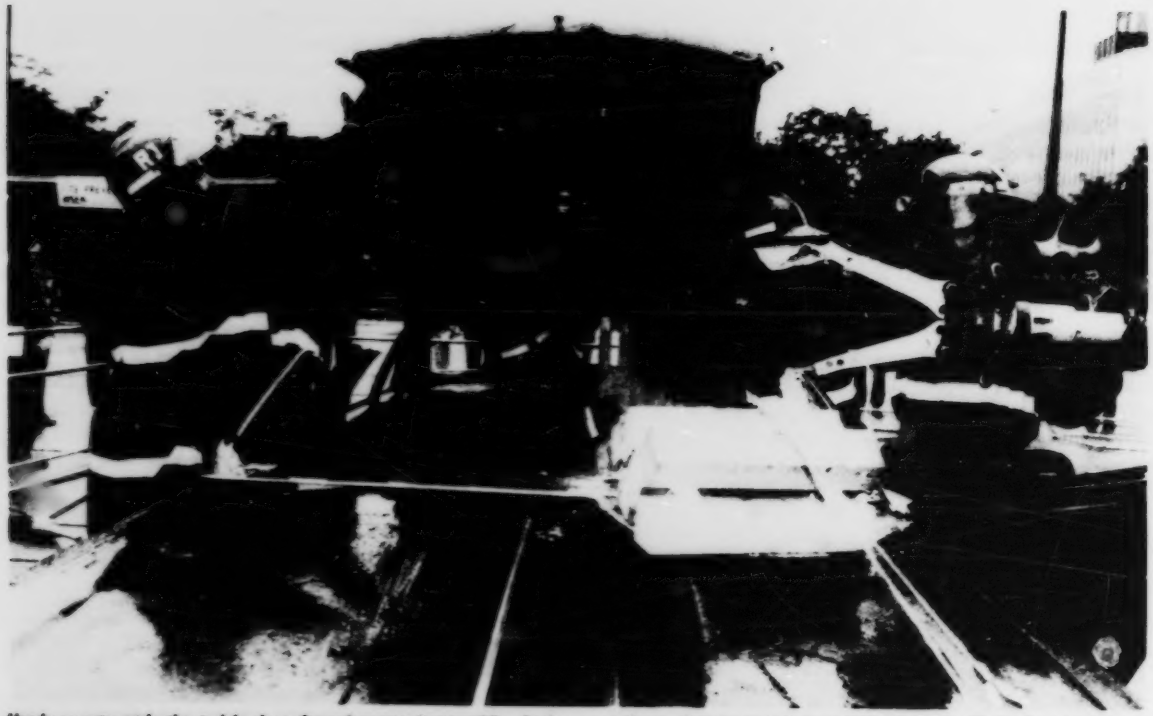
Training Officer John Culligan gives some practical instruction on pump operations.

Fire fighters extinguish an oil-fed fire called the "Christmas Tree." It is used to build confidence and is one of the first fires that recruits face during their training.

Recruit training

Recruit training begins with 6 weeks of intensive practical and theoretical training at the Fire Academy. During this period, the recruits are introduced to all of the subjects required for basic fire fighting and fire prevention.

After that, they are sent to one of the support divisions or out to "get their feet wet" at multiple apparatus fire stations. There, for eighteen weeks, they follow a vigorous program of in-station training while working as a regular crew member. This regime is followed by a one-week re-evaluation at the Academy prior to graduation. In 1989, 144 recruits received their well-deserved accreditation.



Hands-on auto-extrication training is performed on actual automobiles. Each crew performs all major evolutions on their "own" car. Photo: Canada Wide

Training Officer Glenn Murray demonstrates the fine points of "taking a hydrant."

Specialized apparatus and equipment

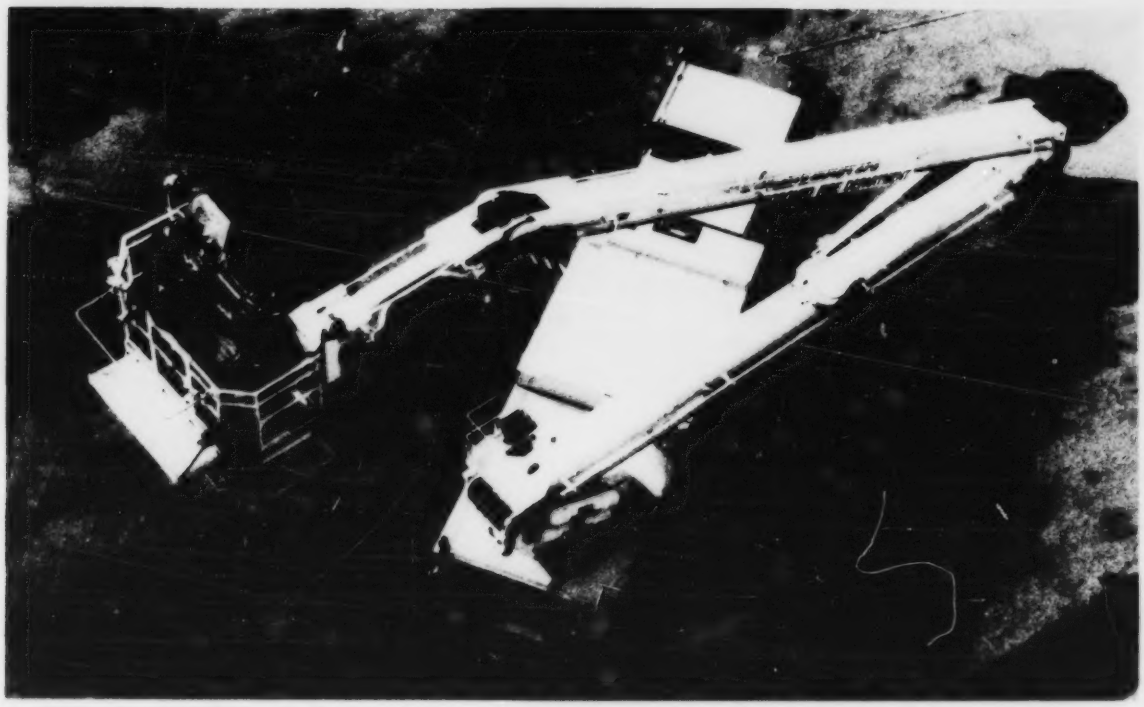
A major focus of in-service training is on familiarizing staff with the Department's specialized apparatus and equipment.

Fire fighters assigned to both Bronto Aerial Towers took part in an intensive training program that was taught by representatives of the Bronto's manufacturer and distributor. As a follow-up, the Training Division produced a training video on all Bronto operations and developed our own manual on standard operating procedures. Next year, the Training Division will implement a performance-based certification program for this apparatus.

Rescue Squad crews have been trained on the new Air Pack Safety Cushion which has replaced the old life net for rappelling and rescue practice. Fire fighters assigned to apparatus issued with the Chemrel and chlorinated polyethylene chemical suits were instructed in their proper use and maintenance.

In 1989, 140 fire fighters representing 32 different crews took part in the annual auto-extrication training. Fire fighters were drilled in aspects of safety, techniques of extrication and had the opportunity to perform "hands-on" practical work with new products and equipment. The practical work was conducted on actual (scrapped) automobiles, with each crew required to perform all major evolutions on their "own" car.

Driver training continues to be another priority for divisional instructors given the increasing traffic density on city streets and the number of recruits who have little or no experience with standard transmissions. Seventy-nine recruits successfully completed their air brake "Z" endorsement in response to legislation implemented by the Ministry of Transportation in 1989. In future, all recruits will be instructed on the "Z" endorsement and take part in the Professional Driver Improvement Course as part of their recruit training.



Fire fighters assigned to both Bronto Aerial Towers took part in an intensive training program to familiarize them with this specialized apparatus.

Ongoing re-certification

Training Division instructors devote considerable energy and time to ensuring fire suppression personnel are proficient in the operation of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and first aid. SCBA and CPR both require annual re-certification. This year, 164 fire fighters were re-certified in the use of SCBA.

Lesson plans have been established for a certification program for the Draeger BG174 Self Contained Closed Circuit Demand Breathing Apparatus which will be initiated in 1990.

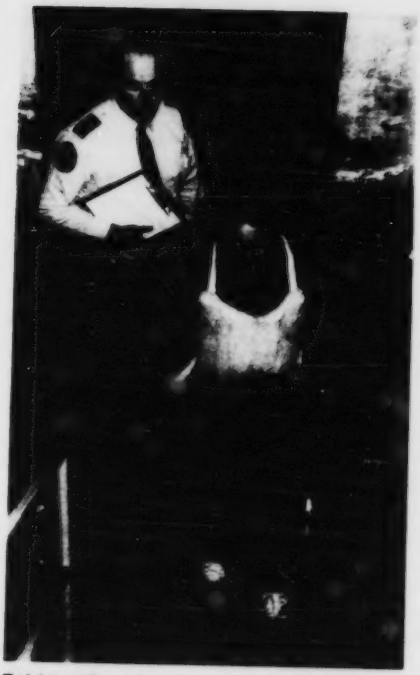
Records

In 1989, the Training Division began investigating ways of tracking training records on computer. Any system developed must be in accordance with legislation that will have an impact on the program. At present, this would include the Ontario Health and Safety Act and the By-Law for Schedules of Retention of Records for the City of Toronto.

Academy plays host to community

A number of award ceremonies, graduations and public events were held at the Fire Academy during 1989. The "Kidsummer" program gave youngsters and their families an opportunity to get a close-up look at the Department's aerials, pumpers and rescue squads, and to watch demonstrations of fire fighting and high-level rescues. On several occasions, training personnel also assisted film and television crews during on location filming at the Academy.

Two fire fighter Career Information Sessions were held at the Academy as part of the Department's bi-annual recruitment drive. More than 1,000 people attended these events to learn about the opportunities and challenges involved in becoming a fire fighter.



Training staff assist in the evaluation of fire fighter candidates with agility tests in the training tower.

Vera U. Maute
Director of Communications Division

Obtaining accurate information from those in need, and quickly relaying this information to the appropriate fire apparatus is the responsibility of the Communications Division.

The Division's highly-trained dispatchers processed 40,279 emergency calls during 1989; this is a 6.9 percent increase or 2,603 more calls than during the previous year.

Dispatchers were able to manage the growing increase in alarms thanks to the effectiveness of the 9-1-1 emergency telephone system and Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD).

Retirements and promotions

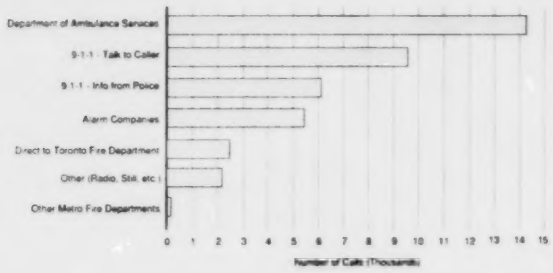
In September, 1989, Vera Maute was promoted to replace the retiring Director of Communications, George Murray. Two communication officers also retired.

Emergency telephone system

In Toronto, we have an enhanced version of 9-1-1 which, in addition to identifying the caller's address and telephone number, also tells dispatchers if the call came from a residence, business or pay telephone. With this detailed information at their fingertips, dispatchers can more easily pinpoint the exact location of the emergency (this is especially useful if the caller is unfamiliar with the area, incoherent, not fluent in English, or unable to talk during the crisis).

Other sources of emergency calls are the Department's direct emergency telephone number (363-2133) and still alarms (when people walk into fire stations to report an emergency). People needing assistance can also report an emergency by using the public emergency telephone located outside each fire station. This would only be necessary if the fire station was vacant because all the apparatus were responding to another emergency.

Origin of Emergency Calls to Toronto Fire Department


Department of Ambulance Services
9-1-1 - Talk to Caller
9-1-1 - Info from Police
Alarm Companies
Direct to Toronto Fire Department
Other (Radio, Still, etc.)
Other Metro Fire Departments
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15
Number of Calls (Thousands)

Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD)

Computer Aided Dispatch has been the primary means of dispatching fire apparatus since 1988. CAD supplies the dispatchers with a wealth of information, greatly enhancing their ability to quickly process emergency calls.

To initiate an alarm, the dispatcher enters the proper address, common name (eg. SkyDome) or intersection into CAD which will then verify the address and will also provide a list of possible duplicate or similar-sounding street names which allows the dispatcher to question the caller further to ensure that the address is correct. CAD also contains a database of all streets in Metropolitan Toronto, so that if the incident address is outside the boundaries of the City of Toronto, the dispatcher can notify the appropriate fire department.

When it has been determined that the incident address is correct, CAD will display the closest cross streets, and the dispatcher will enter details of the alarm. CAD will then list the two closest fire stations and note any fire fighter warnings: hazardous materials on the premises, for example. The dispatcher will then select the number and type of apparatus required. CAD then proposes the closest available apparatus that best matches the dispatcher's selection.

Following the truck selection, CAD sends a dispatch printout to all fire stations involved. The dispatcher, in the meantime, sends a voice message over the stations' public address system and the station floor watch acknowledges the alarm.

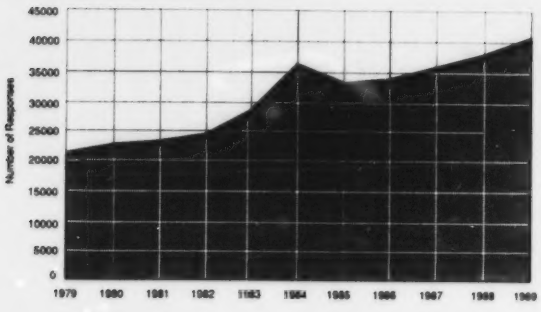
Monthly Alarm Breakdown

	Type of Call				
	Fires Number	%	Other Runs Number	%	Total Calls
January	276	8.5	2,961	91.5	3,237
February	262	9.4	2,539	90.6	2,801
March	253	8.0	2,900	92.0	3,153
April	345	11.4	2,670	88.6	3,015
May	332	10.0	3,006	90.0	3,338
June	328	9.1	3,260	90.9	3,588
July	299	8.5	3,229	91.5	3,528
August	302	8.8	3,140	91.2	3,442
September	290	8.5	3,142	91.5	3,432
October	259	7.4	3,241	92.6	3,500
Novembar	242	7.4	3,023	92.6	3,265
December	270	6.8	3,710	93.2	3,980
Total	3,458	8.6	36,821	91.4	40,279

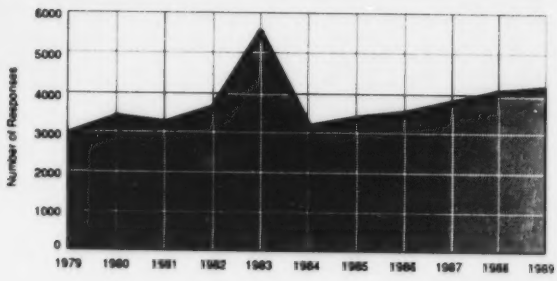
Alarms Received 1973 - 1989

Year	Number of Calls
1973	16,150
1974	17,872
1975	18,974
1976	19,397
1977	20,362
1978	20,008
1979	20,855
1980	22,081
1981	22,745
1982	24,068
1983	27,359
1984	36,323
1985	32,500
1986	33,396
1987	35,744
1988	37,676
1989	40,279

Total Responses 1979 - 1989



Public Service Responses 1979 - 1989



Pre-Fire Inspection and Planning Program (PIP)

With technology expanding at ever-increasing rates, the availability of up-to-date information on hazardous materials is of crucial importance to fire fighters. Through PIP, pre-fire planning data is collected and is stored as part of the Department's computer database.

Capital improvements

Maintaining the division's position on the leading edge of fire fighting technology requires continual review and updating of our equipment.

In 1989 the division received a Dictaphone 9000 recording unit which enables 24-hour-taping of all radio and telephone communications at each dispatch station. The tapes are stored for 60 days, unless the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal requires them for investigative purposes.

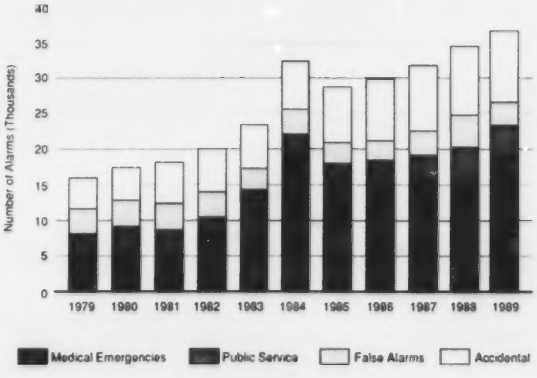
New in 1990

Reducing radio traffic and freeing up dispatchers to concentrate on other necessary duties will result from the addition of status control heads to mobile radios. To relay status changes, fire fighters will push a button on the status control head that will send a signal via the radio into CAD. This signal will in turn automatically update the status display board and leave radio channels open for emergency radio transmissions.

The Toronto Fire Department's highly advanced emergency communications system ensures that state-of-the-art fire fighting equipment and apparatus and highly trained fire fighters will provide the citizens of Toronto with the highest level of fire protection possible.

CAD supplies dispatchers with a wealth of information, greatly enhancing their ability to quickly process emergency calls.

Alarms - Other than Fire 1979 - 1989

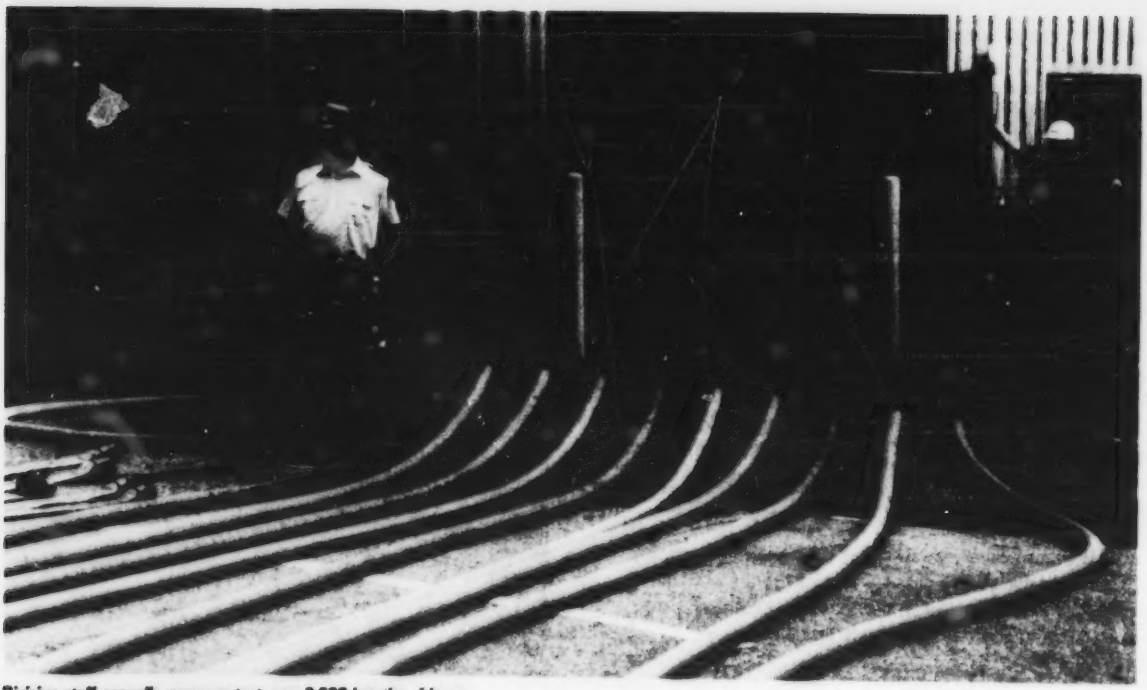


Technical Services Division

Donald T. Marks
Director of Technical Services Division

Keeping pace with rapid changes in technology is the name of the game in the Technical Services Division. Division staff are constantly researching and developing new technologies and techniques to combat fires and improve the Department's emergency response capabilities. In many instances, the expertise of division staff, combined with input from fire fighting personnel, has resulted in significant equipment improvements and adjustments.

A commitment to excellence is evident in all areas of divisional activity. These responsibilities include the testing and maintenance of fire hose, air and oxygen cylinders, fire extinguishers, ventilators, and self-contained breathing apparatus, the repair of fire suppression equipment used in connection with hazardous material responses and auto extrication incidents, and the evaluation and testing of new emergency response technologies.



Division staff annually pressure-test over 3,000 lengths of hose.

New equipment introduced

In 1989 light-weight, flexible 150mm hard suctions were installed on Pumpers No. 4 and No. 5. Ergonomically designed, these innovative hard suctions are approximately 50 percent lighter than previously-used suction devices, and they come equipped with aluminum Storz-style quick connect couplings to ensure efficient drafting operations.

All aerial towers have now been equipped with a fixed breathing air system. Compressed air is supplied to fire fighters in the aerial tower basket from two large cylinders mounted on the lower boom. When used in conjunction with light-weight Scott Ska-Pak air packs and air hose line extensions, fire fighters can not only work from the aerial tower basket for extended periods of time, but are also able to leave the basket to perform rescue operations and related tasks.

Replacement of outdated equipment is an ongoing Departmental program which enables fire fighters to perform their varied duties more effectively and with less risk to the public and to themselves.

Single use disposable Carhill Valves were put into service to replace existing Brook-Airways. The Carhill Valves are used when mouth-to-mouth resuscitation is required for victims under six years of age, or when the ventilator has difficulty ventilating the victim; they are also especially effective in protecting fire fighters from communicable diseases.

The ongoing delivery of Arcair cutting torches that were put into service in 1988, and the installation of quartz floodlights on all apparatus that require high intensity lighting, are part of an equipment replacement program that is expected to be completed in 1990.

Faced with increasingly complex and dangerous situtions, fire fighters need every edge possible to minimize the risk both to themselves and to the people they protect. Technical Services will continue to give our fire fighters that edge.

High intensity quartz floodlights, used to illuminate this accident scene, are part of an ongoing equipment replacement program.

Committed to providing the highest standard of service possible.

Statistics

Types of Fire Hose Tested	Lengths Tested
Diameter - 100mm	38
Diameter - 90mm	42
Diameter - 77mm	60
Diameter - 65mm	1,600
Diameter - 38mm	1,444
Total Hose Tested	3,184

Air Cylinders Recharged	Number Recharged
High Pressure	14,012
Low Pressure	139
Total Cylinders Recharged (Air)	14,151
Oxygen Cylinders Recharged	3,846

Cylinders Hydrostatically Tested	Number Tested
Air Cylinders	223
Oxygen Cylinders	60
Total Cylinders Hydrostatically Tested	283

Fire Extinguishers Serviced	Number Serviced
CO_2 Recharged	832
Dry Chemical Recharged	385
Pressurized Water Recharged	209
CO_2 Hydrostatic	32
Dry Chemical Hydrostatic	8
Pressurized Water Hydrostatic	147
Total Extinguishers Serviced	1,613
S.C.B.A. Serviced	653
Ventilators Serviced	137
Work Orders Processed	1,353
Requisitions Processed	214
Number of Times S.C.B.A. Used	4,108
Total Hours S.C.B.A. Used	1,434

Testing flow and pressure of an S.C.B.A.

Technician making adjustments to a hydraulic ram used in auto extrication.

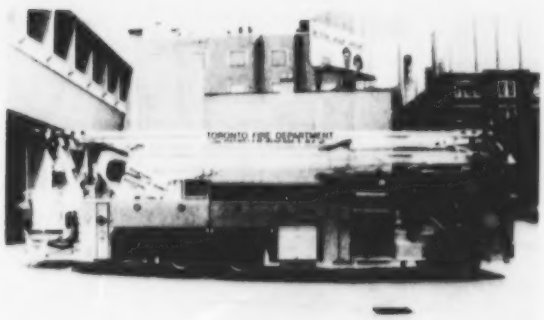
William J. Marshall
Director of Apparatus Maintenance Division

When you're in the business of saving lives and risking your own, there's no room for mechanical breakdown or equipment failure. For this reason, the dedicated personnel of the Apparatus Maintenance Division who manage the TFD's growing fleet of increasingly sophisticated fire fighting apparatus and support vehicles can truly be called the backbone of the Department.

The division's Carpentry Shop meets the needs of the entire Department by repairing or refurbishing everything from fire fighters' clothing, hose bed covers and tarpaulins to wooden items from the stations such as tables, chairs and cabinets.

The Department's "Stores" is part of the Apparatus Maintenance Division. Stores distributes literally thousands of items on request; everything from fire fighting equipment to seal beams and light bulbs. In 1989 this section processed orders with a total material value of $275,000 while mechanics processed more than 2,500 work orders.

The mechanics of the Apparatus Maintenance Division are responsible for the readiness of the Department's 51 front-line apparatus.

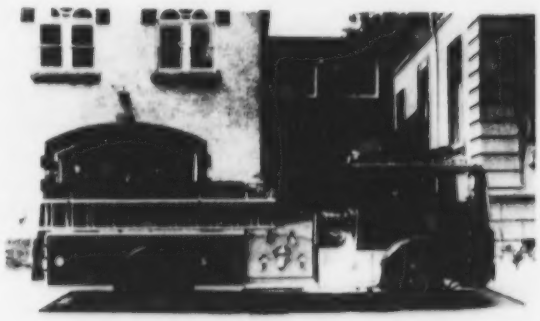


3 Aerial Towers.

Preventative maintenance system

Through ongoing replacement of older apparatus and the addition of the latest analyzing and testing equipment, the division has almost reached a zero failure rate (there were only 21 "failure to starts" out of 95,209 emergency vehicle responses). This excellent record can be attributed to the division's comprehensive preventative maintenance system and to the skill of our mechanics.

In addition to ongoing maintenance, the division overhauled three fire pumps, replaced two booster tanks, and completely refurbished Pumper No. 30 and Aerial No. 15. A system to prevent accidental damage of the aerial ladder and bed was designed and installed on Aerial No. 15. Micro switches ensure that the ladder's hydraulic system will stop automatically when the ladder is fully down.



29 Pumpers.

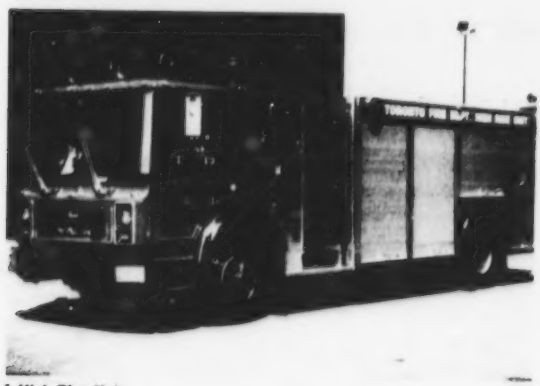
15 Aerial Ladders.

'89 Vehicle additions

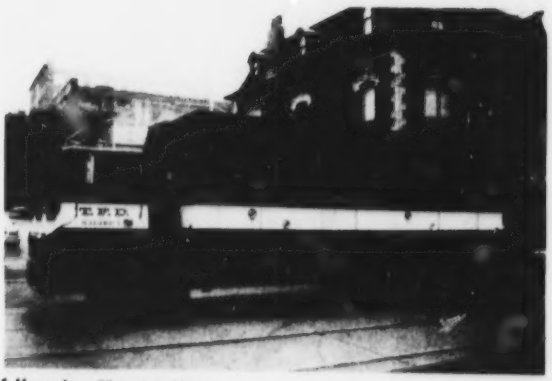
In accordance with the Department's goal of lowering the years of service of its fleet from 25 years to 15 years, the Department took delivery of its first pumpers with fully enclosed, heated crew compartments to replace Pumpers No. 4 and No. 5. The enclosed crew compartments offer increased protection to fire fighters in the event of a traffic accident, as well as providing protection from the elements.

Two features that were incorporated into the new pumpers were the installation of the crew cab intercom system and a drawer under the bench seat. The idea for these design features, like many that are evaluated by Apparatus Supervisor Lorne Whittaker, came from the fire fighters themselves.

Other new vehicles that were put into service in 1989 included a second Bronto Skylift (a three-boom articulating aerial tower), seven mini vans, one full-size van, and a maxi van to transport personnel. The Apparatus Maintenance Division's own Service 61 was replaced with a Ford E350 cutaway type van. The "new" Service 61 is a mobile workshop that's equipped with a workbench, 110 power capability, welding equipment and spare parts. On order for delivery in 1990 are four aerials, two pumpers, one District Chief's van, three mini vans, and a car for the Deputy Chief.



1 High Rise Unit.



1 Hazardous Materials Unit.

2 Rescues.

Ongoing education

All division staff are continually working to improve their skills and learn new ones to keep pace with the evolving technology of today's new generation of fire fighting apparatus.

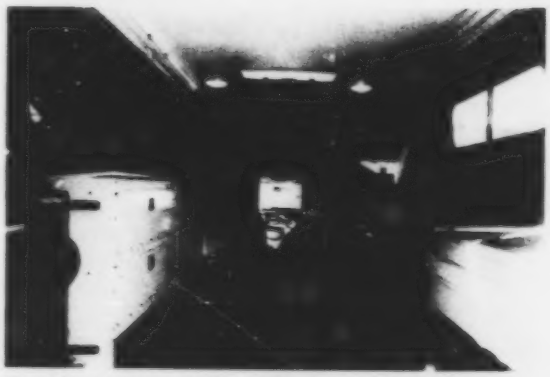
Given its leadership role in the development, evaluation and application of new fire fighting equipment, the division's command personnel are often called upon to share their expertise within the industry.

Director William Marshall serves as Education Co-ordinator for the Ontario Municipal Fire Departments Mechanical Officers Association where he plays a key role in developing curriculum for the Ontario Fire College. Director Marshall also chairs the Metropolitan Toronto Fire Chiefs' Mechanical Subcommittee.

Apparatus Supervisor Lorne Whittaker represents Canada on the International Association of Fire Chiefs Mechanical Certification Task Force. He is also part of a task group that is working to develop a standard for testing elevating devices used by Ontario fire departments.

New quarters

The Apparatus Maintenance Division has been located at 11 Ordnance Street since 1932. Late in 1989 funds were approved to build a spacious new garage on the grounds of the Fire Academy. Scheduled for completion in 1991, the new quarters are sure to reflect the high calibre of work that the division is noted for.



"New" Service 61 is a mobile workshop that is equipped with a workbench, 110 power capability, welding equipment and spare parts.

Doctor J. Terence Bates
Director of Medical Division

Ensuring that fire fighters are capable of handling the physical, emotional and mental demands that come with the job is the responsibility of the team of skilled specialists who staff the Department's Medical Division.

The division's activities break down into three major areas of involvement: health, safety and fitness. These functions are carried out respectively by a full-time physician and medical director, safety officer and fitness coordinator.

From August 1988 to July 1989, Medical Director Doctor J. Terence Bates was on study leave in France as part of a Senior Management Development Program. During Dr. Bates' absence, the reins of the Medical Division were in the capable hands of Doctor Noah Forman.

The information Dr. Bates garnered during his study leave has been compiled in a sixty-page report. Requests for the report, which contains details of itineraries, methods and findings (much of which are in comparison chart form), may be directed to the Medical Division.

The mainstay of the Department's medical program is the daily clinic held at the Toronto Fire Academy. In 1989, 2,258 visits were made to the clinic, a 15 percent increase over 1988. On average about seventy fire fighters (approximately six percent of the work-force) were absent at any one time. This absenteeism was mostly due to illness.

Abnormal audiograms cause for concern

In 1989, more than 500 hearing tests were conducted. Following analysis by Dr. Bates (with the assistance of Department of Public Health biostatisticians), it was concluded that about 60 percent of the audiograms were abnormal.

The high rate of abnormality in the preliminary test results is of concern to Dr. Bates, who presented this information to the 1989 Redmond Symposium in New Orleans, Louisiana. Questions regarding what percentage of the abnormalities are noise-induced and the effect of fire fighting activities on hearing loss are currently under review.

Often called upon to assist victims at fire scenes and accidents, fire fighters face an increased risk of contracting AIDS and Hepatitis B. One of a number of precautionary measures that have been initiated by the division to protect fire fighters from medical risk is the Hepatitis B Vaccination Program. In 1989, 525 injections of the synthetic vaccine Engerix-B were administered to 148 fire fighters.

The aim of the program is to vaccinate all Departmental staff over a five-year period. Since the program's introduction in 1988, approximately 25 percent of suppression personnel have been vaccinated.

Fitness Coordinator Terry Buckley sets up a fitness training program for fire fighters at No. 23 Station.

Fire fighters require strength, agility and endurance to effectively perform their duties.

Skill plus equipment ensure survival

When your work environment is a burning building, it is difficult to reduce or control the inherent hazards of the job. Skillful application of fire fighting techniques and superior personal protective equipment are a fire fighter's only means of survival.

Safety Officer George Coppin is constantly exploring new avenues to reduce the risks associated with fire fighting. He reviews all exposure and injury reports, making recommendations, where necessary, for improving equipment and emergency-response techniques.

After considerable investigation and trial, a specification for a new bunker suit and a Personal Alarm Safety System (PASS) was agreed upon in 1989. The new bunker suit will be enhanced by the addition of PASS, a safety device that permits fire fighters to signal for aid; in the event that they are incapacited, it would automatically sound an alarm after thirty seconds. Most importantly, PASS includes a high temperature warning to alert fire fighters should the area in which they are working become excessively hot. The new bunker suit and PASS will be introduced on a phased-in basis during 1990.

Keeping fit for the health of it

Fire fighters are encouraged to pursue a healthy lifestyle throughout their careers. In fact, would-be recruits are told to participate in a supervised exercise and training program to prepare for the Department's fitness assessment and physical abilities tests. Once they've been taken on as recruits, probationary fire fighters are put through daily 45-minute workouts by Fitness Coordinator Terry Buckley. Recruits also receive lectures on important health issues, such as back care, nutrition, on-the-job safety, and heart and lung disease.

Fire fighters are encouraged to participate in both competitive and non-competitive events during their off-duty hours. In 1989, TFD personnel, for the first time, took part in the third annual World Police/Fire Games in Vancouver, British Columbia. This prestigious athletic event attracted more than 6,500 fire fighters and police officers.

Months of training and preparation paid off as the Department's sixteen member team brought home nineteen medals for their participation in a variety of events including track and field, karate, triathlon, swimming and motocross. Watch for the TFD team to build on their success at the next World Police/Fire Games scheduled for 1991.

Closer to home, fire fighters hosted and participated in the fifth annual Emergency Services 911 Run, a 9.11 kilometre race that pits fire fighters against police and ambulance personnel.

In 1989, fire fighters also participated in the annual YMCA Corporate Challenge Run and the annual CN Tower Charity Climb. 1989 also marks the first year that the Department was successful in overpowering the Police team in the Pre-ParticipACTION Day Tugboat Pull. Activities such as these stimulate fire fighters' interest in keeping fit and promote a sense of camaraderie that's essential to top-notch on the job performance.

Activities such as the Emergency Services 9-1-1 run stimulate fire fighters' interest in keeping fit.

This annual report was produced by the City of Toronto Fire Department, Information Section with the assistance of the Department of the City Clerk, Information and Communication Services Division and Records and Archives Division.